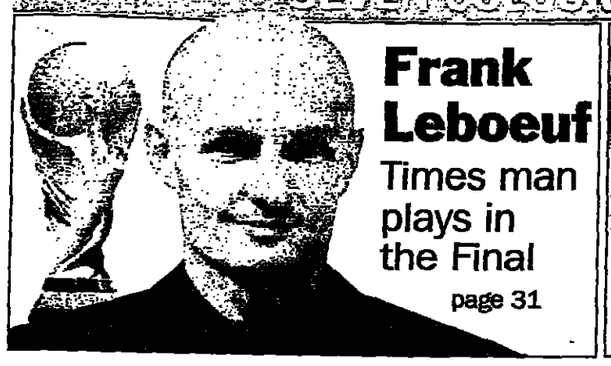
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SEVEN COLOUR SECTIONS: BRITAIN'S BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER



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Times man plays in the Final
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Everything you wanted to know about **Viagra** but were afraid to ask
WEEKEND



Bringing up baby
JOANNA PITMAN'S new column



Diana
The flawed icon

THE TIMES

No. 66,251 SATURDAY JULY 11 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Draper sold access to Mandelson



Draper: has not filed company accounts

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEREK DRAPER, who triggered the row over the Government's link to lobbyists, sold businessmen access to Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle for £150 a time. He paid the proceeds into his own private company.

More than 100 businessmen and lobbyists took advantage of the offer to meet Mr Mandelson and discuss ideas. Three separate meetings generated more than £15,000 in ticket sales. The meetings were staged after the 1996 launch of Mr Liddle and Mr Mandelson's book, *The Blair Revolution*, one year before the general election.

Mr Draper said: "After the book came out, businessmen and lobbyists wanted to meet Peter and Roger to discuss their ideas. I arranged it and charged them a £150 fee. It was quite straightforward. I had to impose a charge because there were costs involved in hiring a meeting place. I also provided food."

The ticket sale proceeds were paid into a company, 3C, which was set up by Mr Draper to handle mail order sales of the book by Mr Liddle and Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio.

Mr Draper, a former adviser to Mr Mandelson, denied yesterday that he had made any significant profits from the venture. But in a new twist, Mr Draper could possibly face prosecution over the issue as he has failed to file the accounts of 3C at Companies House.

Meanwhile it emerged yesterday that the Cabinet Office, when it approved the arrangements for Mr Liddle's blind trust when he took up his post in the Downing Street policy unit, had no idea that it was run by Matthew Oakeshott, his next door neighbour.

The issue is being taken so seriously that Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, will personally review the arrangements Mr Liddle made for the blind trust.

The Tories seized on the latest disclosure about Mr Draper as evidence that even before the general election lobbyists close to Labour were cashing in on their connections. Mr Draper, who resigned earlier this week from the lobbyists GPC Market Access in the wake of the cash-for-access allegations at the weekend, said that he had done nothing wrong.

The first meeting, for more than 80 people, was held at Labour's Millbank headquarters. Mr Draper paid a hire fee to the Labour Party. The second was held in the City and the third in Newcastle when Mr Liddle and Mr Mandelson sat around the same table as a dozen businessmen.

The accounts for the company have not been lodged with Companies House in accordance with the law. "I have just not got round to submitting them," Mr Draper said. "I have had letters from my accountants saying I have to do them. But this is no big deal. I never did this to raise money for Derek Draper. I did it to raise awareness of the book. There were a lot of expenses involved."

Accounts have to be submitted within one calendar year unless the directors have sought a special dispensation. Directors who fail to meet the deadline are liable to prosecution.

The unease on the Labour back benches over the role of Mr Liddle has increased throughout the week. Few MPs have any sympathy, not least because he was a member of the SDP which helped to keep Labour out of power for a decade. One senior Labour MP said: "They feel Liddle has finally got his comeuppance."

Flamboyant career, page 18
Diary, page 20
Letters, page 21

'Bombers halted minutes before London attack'

BY STEWART TENDLER, MARTIN FLETCHER AND AUDREY MAGEE

POLICE believe they have foiled plans by an Irish republican splinter group to launch a mainland bombing campaign after three men were arrested on London streets minutes away from planting devices.

Two men and a woman were also held in the Irish Republic after a co-ordinated surveillance operation involving the Security Service, Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Branch.

Detectives backed by heavily armed specialist firearms officers arrested two of the suspects in Thomas Doyle Street in south-east London at tea-time.

The arrests came as desperate efforts were under way last night to prevent an eruption of violence in Northern Ireland this weekend.

Tony Blair's chief of staff wrote to both sides in the Drumcree stand-off asking them to attend "proximity" talks at 9 am today in a final attempt to avert an imminent disaster. The Orange Order accepted. There was no immediate reply from the nationalist Garvaghy Road Residents Association.

The initiative came as the 2,000 security forces preventing the Orangemen encamped at Drumcree church from marching down the Garvaghy Road moved to reinforce their



defences. They widened what was once a stream into a moat 12 ft wide and 10 ft deep, strengthened and lengthened their barbed wire barricades and ostentatiously practised troop landings in Chinook helicopters.

The manoeuvres followed dramatic scenes late on Thursday night when a record 20,000 Orangemen breached the first line of the defences. They hurled nail bombs, missiles, fireworks at the security forces, injuring 30 policemen. Five were taken to hospital. Riot police repelled the crowd with plastic bullets.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 Orangmen and their supporters may have gathered at Drumcree by Monday when the Order celebrates the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, the most important oday in its calendar. Hundreds were sailing from Liverpool alone last night.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC's chief constable, assured Mr Blair that the security forces could hold the line. The Prime Minister, facing the biggest crisis of his leadership, was adamant that "the rule of law will be upheld" but others were less certain.

Archbishop Robin Eames, the Primate of the Protestant Church of Ireland, said "nothing on earth" could control the numbers expected. He and the leaders of Northern Ireland's three other main churches urged everyone to "act responsibly and within the law for the sake of the present and on behalf of future generations".

David Jones, Portadown's Orange Order spokesman, asked whether Mr Blair really wanted to see a repeat of Bloody Sunday when soldiers killed 13 unarmed demonstrators in Londonderry. "As the crowds get bigger, there's a real danger they'll break through and the military operation will fall apart."

The proximity talks are the last hope of reaching an accommodation. The Orangemen and the residents would each send four representatives to negotiate via intermediaries or "facilitators" with Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff, assisting.

They would sit in separate rooms in the same building. There would be no veto on the other side's team, no preconditions, no direct contact and no talking to the media. The goal would be an agreement to resolve the Drumcree parade issue once and for all.

The RUC has overall control of the Drumcree operation. In the worst scenario the security forces could open fire in self-defence, but practically nobody believed it would come to that.

Night of violence, page 2
Letters, page 21

SIMON WALKER



The image of Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker, towers over the streets of Paris

French to sell pitch to pay for World Cup

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

WORLD Cup organisers, desperate to reduce forecast losses of £130 million, are hoping to cash in on France's first appearance in the final tomorrow.

After the game, in which the hosts take on the cup-holders, Brazil, fans are being invited to buy the pitch. At the prices being quoted, it could cover nearly a third of France's predicted financial losses.

The owners of the Stade de France, where the final will be played, say they will cut their field of dreams into two-inch squares, which fans can buy for Fr120 (£12) each. According to the French daily *Le Parisien*, the sale could make £43.2 million.

Economists say the tournament will generate a maximum of £810 billion, significantly less than the £940 million it cost to stage.

Ben Macintyre, page 20
Sport, pages 31-38

THE TIMES Times up, Telegraph down – again

- The sales gap between *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* has again closed sharply, according to the official ABC circulation figures.
- Last month *The Times* sold 789,742 each day, 4.6 per cent more than in June last year. *The Daily Telegraph* sales dropped by 2.2 per cent in the last 12 months to a little over a million copies daily, 1,066,675.
- Readership figures showed the gap narrowing even more rapidly, with *The Times* attracting 1,990,000 readers daily between December 1997 and May 1998, an increase of 9.9 per cent. Readership of *The Daily Telegraph* dropped by 12.4 per cent in the same period, to 2,459,000.

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DiCaprio takes another titanic role with touch of trainspotting

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

HOLLYWOOD'S hottest heartthrob, Leonardo DiCaprio, is being cast in a film to be shot by the cult trio that made two of Britain's biggest movie successes, *Trainspotting* and *Shallow Grave*.

Industry sources said that DiCaprio — who has become an international household name since *Titanic* — is to team up with the director Danny Boyle, the producer Andrew McDonald and the writer John Hodge for *The Beach*, a story about a group of backpackers who get stranded in South-East Asia while looking for a fabled paradise. It is being adapted from a first novel by Alex Garland and filming is likely to begin in January.

Although a spokesman for the *Trainspotting* team said that the film was "not confirmed", an official announcement is expected shortly. While the Boyle-MacDonald-Hodge trio seems to have the Midas touch, a star as big as DiCaprio — who is reported to command fees of up to $22 million (about £14 million) — seems to guarantee box-office success. His boyish looks inspire mass hysteria among teenage girls: when he attended the London premiere in March, he was met by 5,000 screaming fans. Bantam Books have enjoyed huge sales of their picture books. More than 50,000 paperback copies of *Leonardo DiCaprio: A Modern Day Romeo* and *Leonardo DiCaprio: A Scrapbook in Words and Pictures* have been sold to "girls aged ten upwards", a spokeswoman said, referring to the three months since they were issued.



DiCaprio with Kristen, the girl he wants to marry

DiCaprio was yesterday reported as saying his womanising days would be behind him if his former girlfriend Kristen Zang, 23, would agree to marry him. DiCaprio is believed to have flown to Los Angeles to propose to Miss Zang, who left him just before the release of *Titanic*.

Deep depression to follow gloomy June

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

BRAZILIANS peering anxiously at grey skies above the Stade de France were reassured last night that the miserable weather sweeping across Britain should arrive in Paris just too late to spoil Sunday's World Cup party.

No such escape is likely for the marching season in Northern Ireland where a depression to match the political mood is forecast to settle over the province on Sunday, bringing heavy rain and wind.

After one of the worst Junes on record, the Meteorological Office predicted falling temperatures.

A "horrid" showery and windy Saturday for much of Britain will be followed by an unseasonably deep depression moving in from the Atlantic.

This will sit over Northern Ireland, making tomorrow cloudy with showers, a downpour on Sunday and a cool, showery and windy Monday. As the depression moves over the North Sea it will push a cold front into northern France, sweeping rain down across the country, arriving in Paris late on Sunday night.

Rain is also likely to hit the British Grand Prix at Silverstone

One forecaster said: "It will be cooler from Monday onwards, unseasonably cool, with temperatures struggling to reach even 20C or 68F in the South and hardly even 15C or 59F further north. "That situation will continue for days, and so far there is no sign of any settled summer weather."

A similar deep Atlantic depression crossed the country in July 1980 — again following an unusually cold and wet June. July and August stayed cold and wet.

Forecast, Page 30

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SATURDAY
PRINCE
Portrait of THE ARTIST

Hopes disappear in the smoke

Stench of hate fills the air as Orangemen battle police and soldiers, reports Audrey Magee

MAX NASH/AP



Troops in riot gear prepare to board a Chinook at Drumcree. Three policemen have been hurt in the protests over the banned Orange march

THE few trees that remained at dawn yesterday on the edge of Portadown stood as smouldering testimony to the worst night of violence so far at Drumcree.

Thousands of Orangemen and their supporters battled with police and soldiers until dawn over the right to march down Garvaghy Road. During the day, most of the remaining trees and bushes, which stood between the Orangemen's camp and the security forces, were removed so a defensive water trench could be widened.

The battle was a macabre mix of violence and festivity that began at about 9pm on Thursday evening when a middle-aged man wearing slacks, a white suit shirt and yellow rubber gloves crossed the 8ft trench dug by the security forces last week to block the Orangemen.

Armed with a wire cutter, the slightly balding man clipped the barbed wire barricades. Dozens of young men quickly joined him, pulling at the wire with their bare hands or lengths of rope to create a two-acre site of no man's land directly in front of the second line of police defence.

The numbers who crossed the waterlogged trench quickly swelled to about 2,000. Most were young men in jeans and tracksuits but middle aged men in expensive sports jackets also joined the fray.

They played football, planted British and Ulster flags on the barricade and taunted police sheltering behind tall, plastic shields.

Thousands of men, women and children packed the length of the trench, delighting in the confrontation. Fathers lifted their eight-year-old sons onto their shoulders to allow a better view while overweight middle aged women peered through binoculars at the action.

The onlookers were ecstatic when bands from Antrim crossed the trench and paraded in front of the police. The crowd broke into song when four men, their faces masked by Rangers scarves, carried an Irish tricolour to the barricade and set it alight.

"Green, white and orange — the colours of the Fenian bastard RUC scum," hollered one neatly-coiffured middle aged woman.

The crowd hurled abuse at the RUC calling them traitors, threatening their families and ordering them to move to the Irish Republic. Their hatred of the police was made abundantly clear when, from within a group which included Orangemen wearing their traditional sashes, a man threw a pig's head dripping in blood across the barricades.

Shortly after 11pm, the real battle began. Loyalists, masked and wearing army fatigues, threw several blast bombs, believed by police sources to have been made by Loyalist terrorists.

Three policemen were injured — one seriously — when a blast bomb filled with nails exploded beside them. Two more were injured by bricks and ballbearings fired by a catapult.

The crowd remained in place despite the increased violence and cheered rapturously when injured policemen were carried away. They hissed and booed when the RUC fired plastic bullets and hit protesters.

A masked man working with the expertise of a soldier twice crawled through the long grass to the front line to throw a grappling hook across the barbed wire and break the second barricade. The police, backed by army reinforcements, twice removed the hook and promptly retreated. A boy of about 12 shouted "wimps" as the police pulled back.

Members of the LVF and UDA — terrorist organisations ostensibly on ceasefire — lurked in the shadows of the trees as events unfolded. They watched as extra paratroopers were flown in by helicopter and army personnel carriers were moved to the front line to bolster defences.

Orange Order marshals wandered through the crowd but openly admitted they could not control events.

Senior people in the Order intervened after midnight and, over the tannoy system, called on people to pull back from the front line.

Most did and gradually drifted home over the next couple of hours. The odd skirmish continued until dawn when even the last of the stalwarts became tired — until the next time.

Letters, page 21

Ethnic cleansing 'is happening in Ulster'

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LOYALIST thugs, hoodlums and paramilitaries are now running riot across Northern Ireland, making a mockery of the Orange Order's calls for peaceful protests.

They have used the Drumcree stand-off as a pretext for taking to the streets and causing mayhem each night. They are terrifying the population with their random roadblocks and burning barricades, but their main targets are Roman Catholics and policemen.

"The Drumcree protests are fast descending into anti-Catholic pogroms," said Glyn Roberts, a spokesman for Families Against Intimidation and Terror. "Ethnic cleansing is no longer something which takes place in faraway countries like Bosnia. It is happening in Northern Ireland."

A senior police officer in North Belfast ridiculed the idea that the protests were peaceful. "What we are seeing in North Belfast and elsewhere is thuggery and vandalism of the worst kind. It is absolute wanton destruction."

In his division alone, 20 Catholic families had been attacked this week and the Catholic schools and churches are being kept under constant watch. His men came under sustained gunfire when they sought to move burning cars blocking the entrance to the loyalist Rathcoole estate on Wednesday night. They have been attacked with numerous blast bombs — cans of six-inch nails packed with explosive — and literally hundreds of petrol bombs.

ECONOMY HIT

The stand-off at Drumcree and associated violence across Northern Ireland is threatening economic prospects, the Government warned yesterday.

Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister, said: "The cost to everyone is immeasurable. We can add up the cost of replacing windows, cars and repairing damage to buildings and so on, but we cannot count the economic costs. Trade and inward investment and new jobs don't come our way automatically. That is why what happens this weekend is crucial to our economic future."

Mr Ingram issued the warning as the Northern Ireland CBI met David Trimble, the region's First Minister, and Seamus Mallon, his deputy. The CBI is believed to have warned the politicians that the Drumcree impasse could wreck investment prospects that received a huge boost when the Good Friday peace agreement was signed. Last month, the Industrial Development Board forecast 23,000 jobs from new overseas investors and expansion by local companies.

Deirdre Stewart, assistant director of the Northern Ireland CBI, said the recent violence had shattered the feelgood factor businesses had reported last month. "Everyone is depressed that we are going through this again. This puts out a very negative picture about Northern Ireland. We have just had a series of US trade visits. This kind of thing puts people off."

Economic hopes jumped to their highest following the peace agreement and the Industrial Development Board forecast the biggest influx of overseas investment. However, it then warned that "any return to political instability or a replay of troubled images of Northern Ireland across the world's media would have adverse implications for these targets."

Hopes for a bumper aid package from America are fading, despite thje country's strong links with Ireland. Many economists believe that the Clinton administration will not deliver cash support to match the £315 million announced by Gordon Brown in May. In October, Mr Brown will kick off an 11-city tour of America to visit company chiefs and drum up more investment for Northern Ireland.

There is strong evidence that individual members of the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Defence Association are involved, but no sign that their conduct has been sanctioned by the UDA's leadership.

The statistics become steadily worse. By dawn yesterday, after five consecutive nights of violence, there had been 550 attacks on security forces including 15 with guns and 33 with bombs, and 53 policemen injured. More than 600 cars, homes and other buildings had been attacked, and 166 vehicles hijacked. Petrol bombs had been thrown on 548 occasions, and another 1,910 had been recovered.

Letters, page 21

European court backs Catholics

ROMAN Catholics who were barred from pursuing claims of religious discrimination after being denied work in Northern Ireland on grounds of national security won their case in the European Court of Human Rights yesterday (Richard Ford writes).

The ruling that their human rights were violated was a defeat for the Government, which may now have to change employment laws concerning people alleged to be a security risk.

John Tinnelly and Sons, a demolition contractor from Newry, Co Down, and Kevin McElduff and three relatives from Carrickmore in Co Tyrone, took their complaints to the European court after their claims of discrimination had been blocked by Section 42 of the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1976. It bars courts and tribunals hearing discrimination claims from looking into the details behind employment decisions taken on national security grounds.

The Government was ordered to pay £15,000 to John Tinnelly and Sons and £10,000 to the McElduffs.

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IN BRIEF

Bomb plot man loses appeal

John Kinsella lost his appeal against conviction for his involvement in the IRA's 1993 Warrington gasworks bombing. Kinsella, 53, cried out "Same old whitewash" as he left the dock yesterday at the high-security Woolwich Crown Court, where three appeal judges heard the case.

Kinsella, an Irishman from Dublin who has lived in Nottingham for most of his adult life, is serving 16 years for possession of explosives with intent to endanger life. His part in the bombing involved burying a holdall containing Semtex explosives in his allotment for an IRA unit.

The part-time roofer and father of five claimed he had been duped by the gang who told him the bag contained stolen silver.

Organic plea

An organic farmer failed in a legal attempt to halt trials of a genetically engineered maize crop in a nearby field. Guy Watson, of Buckfastleigh, Devon, claimed in the High Court that there was a risk of pollen blowing into his fields and contaminating his organic sweetcorn.

Swimmer dies

A schoolgirl swimmer tipped for Olympic glory collapsed and died at a gala, an inquest at Dorchester was told yesterday. Laura Moss, 13, of Weymouth, was warming up when she fell unconscious in the shallow end of the pool. No clear reason for her death was found. Verdict: open.

Solicitor jailed

A solicitor who bribed an Inland Revenue official to help to trace debtors was jailed for 2½ years at the Old Bailey. John Cornillie, 45, of Dunstable, Befordshire, admitted conspiracy to bribe a public officer and cheating the Revenue of £11,265 by giving fake expenses to staff.

Water prices

Water companies may be forced to cut their prices if bosses award themselves large pay rises. The Government gave its strongest signal yet yesterday that ministers were considering giving water regulators powers to force water companies to link their prices with executive pay levels.

Big spenders

A report into North Lanarkshire council's £4.8 million budget deficit by the auditors Price Waterhouse has concluded that officials showed an alarming lack of financial expertise. The report reveals that 311 council workers earned more than £10,000 a year in bonus payments.

Rapist jailed

A man was jailed for ten years for kidnapping and raping a woman who was seven months pregnant. The Old Bailey was told that Keith Fenton, 24, of Rainham, East London, had also videotaped women, including his probation officer, through their bedroom windows.

£50,000 fine

Mendip District Council was fined £50,000 at Bristol Crown Court after a 13-year-old girl died falling from a playground swing. Rachel James hit her head on concrete left bare by vandals who had ripped up safety mats at the playground in Frome, Somerset, in May last year.

Garrett resigns

Sir Anthony Garrett, one of the most senior backroom officials at Tory Central Office, has resigned after 27 years' service with the party. The director of campaigning and chief agent started working for the party when Sir Edward Heath was Conservative Party leader.

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Brit Fop strides to the top of catwalk

Homegrown menswear designers are to have their own showcase next week, reports **Damian Whitworth**

IN A hot, packed room in the Café Royal in Piccadilly on Tuesday morning a group of men in suits will sashay down a catwalk. Just a few steps for them, but a giant leap for British fashion. The first London Men's Fashion Week will be under way — marking the indisputable arrival of the Brit Fop.

While Paris, Milan and New York have long had menswear shows, separate from the glittering, hectic women's shows, British men's fashion — if such a thing exists — has not been deemed worthy of such fuss. But now, we are told, the British male has shed his hapless, sartorial image of scruffy jeans, T-shirt and shapeless, zip-up cardigan and reinvented himself as a strutting dandy.

For three days next week some of the top names in British fashion, including Nicole Farhi, Patrick Cox, Paul Costelloe, Ozwald Boateng and Joseph, will show off their wares to fashion writers and buyers from Britain, Europe, America and Japan. The menswear market in Britain is worth £3 billion and it seems that the industry has finally decided that its clothes are fit to be revealed to the world.

Andrew Sharp, a fashion writer and co-founder of London Men's Fashion Week, said that the conversion of the British male to the delights of style over practicality has taken place over the past decade.

"It's been a gradual thing. Ten years ago you got a strange look if you were reading a men's magazine. Now people don't give you a second glance if you are reading *Arena* on the train.

"The peacock image is becoming acceptable to men in this country. On a Friday and Saturday night it is probably now men in front of the mirror before they go out, more than women. Men want their clothes to have design."



Red hot: Shane Mantell steps out in velvet

The change, Mr Sharp said, has occurred among all ages. "In the high street, the stores that are opening are for men. If you look at the most beautifully dressed men in Britain, they are not just 24-year-old pop stars."

Next week there will be clothes for all ages and tastes. "There will be everything from beautifully tailored suits to avant-garde streetwear. There shouldn't be a man in Britain who can't find something he likes."

Anna Garner, of the retail chain Joseph, which opened its first menswear store last autumn, and will be holding a reception to show off its designs, agreed that all types of men were buying their clothes. She said: "Men in general are now more interested in the whole grooming and fashion lifestyle. We have such a wide range of customers, from men in their twenties right up to those in their sixties."

Chris Sullivan, style editor of *GQ* magazine, said it was astonishing, given the success and popularity of British designers, that a men's show had not been held in London before. "It is long overdue. It's great that at last we have got British people showing British stuff because everybody copies us, and it was incredible that until now we didn't have a showcase.

"It's a good time for it. Fashion has taken a turn. People want the good-quality, discreet clothes that British designers make. Most of my friends look like City bankers from 20 years ago, while most City bankers look like fashion victims from five years ago. The people they have got at the fashion week are quite sensible, not too flouncy."

The quality of British tailoring is fêted: Ralph Lauren has chosen to have his bespoke label stitched by the British firm Chester Barrie, and Saks Fifth Avenue is sending over a team of buyers in preparation for a display of the best of British in its New York store.

"We are so good at men's design, and we have been too quiet about it for too long. We've always had this tremendous depth of talent in menswear design," Mr Sharp said. "The most successful designer from this country, Paul Smith, made his name in menswear.

Now it is not about Paul Smith but how is the next one going to break through?" There have been complaints that Smith will not be at the show because of other commitments. But he has given the event his support and hopes to attend next year. The future looks good for British menswear, Mr Sullivan said: "In Paris in the 1920s the prêt-à-porter show consisted of just one designer. You have to start somewhere."

Well suited, Weekend, page 5

PHOTOGRAPHS: SUZANNE HUBBARD



Crowning glory: the Australian model, in tweed by Ken Odimah, is brushed into shape by Donna Allen

Model star who likes to paint and party

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

SHANE MANTELL, a 27-year-old Australian, 6ft tall with a 40in chest and a cartoon hero's cheekbones, will star in seven shows in London Men's Fashion Week. A model for six years, he boasts a portfolio of high-profile commercial shoots, including campaigns for the British bespoke tailor Ozwald Boateng, Levi's and Ray-Ban.

Mr Mantell, who is with the modelling agency So Dam Tuff, has also appeared in French *Elle* and *FHM* magazines and in catwalk shows for designers including Dolce & Gabbana, Issey Miyake and Yoji Yamamoto. His estimated earnings are anything between £50,000 and £100,000 a year.

Weighing in at 74kg (11 stone 6lb), Mr Mantell does not exercise. There are no visits to the gym and he does not need to watch his diet. But like nearly everyone in the fashion industry, he is usually found with his fingers wrapped around a Marlboro Light. Off-duty, his favourite designers are Paul Smith and Gucci.

A male model can expect to have a lengthier career than his female counterpart, so although the boys earn less per day, they can ultimately make as much as the girls do. But Mr Mantell doesn't plan to stay in the business long-term and admits to being a little bored by it all.

When he's not modelling he enjoys painting and sculpting in his flat in Brewer Street, Soho, and he has a busy social life. "But I don't partake too much," he whispers unconvincingly. "I'm a good boy."

Taste of the wild leaves TV station down in the mouth

James Pringle on the unacceptable side of Far Eastern cuisine

THREE leading Japanese entertainers this week appeared on a television series entitled *World Super Deluxe Rare Cuisine*. Among the dishes they were given in a blind tasting was one of braised meat.

When asked what they thought of the dish, the celebrities declared it "delicious". Nor did they bat an eyelid when told that the meat was Bengal tiger. A live tiger was then led into the dining room to be patted by the entertainers.

The World Wide Fund for Nature immediately condemned the Fuji Television programme as a "terrible example" for viewers, pointing out that Bengal tigers are on the world's endangered species list.

Fuji TV was bombarded with complaints after the show. "The programme was careless from the broader perspective of animal protection," the network admitted afterwards. "We will endeavour in future to pay due attention to the prevention of cruelty to animals in our programming."

A spokesman for the company said the tiger used in the meal died a year ago in a fight with other tigers at a zoo in Shanghai and had been frozen since then. The three diners were Kenichi Mikawa, who often appears on gourmet cooking shows, Tomomi Nishimura, a popular actress, and Midori Utsumi, a well-known television personality.

Their first course had consisted of bull's penis, a common aphrodisiac in China, and typical of some of the more nauseating produce available in the Far East, where stomach-churning scenes involving animals are a common sight. In Canton's Qingping market, live dogs, cats, owls and rarer creatures such as pangolins — a Chinese armadillo — are stuffed into cages and put on sale.

Restaurants in Guangdong try to attract customers by displaying live dogs in cages outside them. As a China-based correspondent, I have had to tackle some strange dishes, apart from the fairly common, if pricey, bird's nest soup, which has a delicate flavour, and shark's fin soup, usually at banquets with pot-bellied provincial officials who use the presence of a visiting correspondent to order their favourite dishes.

In Fujian province, fish lips were prepared by a chef who said he had cooked for President Richard Nixon during one of his trips to China. I have seen fish cooked while still alive and prawns moving on the plate. One is told when pointing out the waving antennae: "Our Chinese customers insist on freshness."

Sea slugs used to be a constant presence at banquets in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. They are prized not for their taste, as there is none, but for their texture, which for the uninitiated seems like rubber. I have occasionally been offered Tibetan caterpillars, as well as various kinds of fungus.

In Hunan province, Mao's birthplace, I have had hot snake soup, said to have been the Great Helmsman's favourite dish. Snake is also served north of the Yangtze river: it is regarded as a shield against Beijing's winter cold and is offered in many restaurants in the capital. The live, wriggling snake is brought to the table first for the customer to inspect it.

Some dishes, like braised bear's paws, would not go down well with the wildlife fund. However, on a visit to a factory in Tianjin, the party committee wanted to show off its best during the obligatory banquet that followed the tour. I protested at the expense involved — I was their guest — in lieu of saying that I thought bears' paws inappropriate fare. There was nothing in the taste to justify the sacrifice of the animal involved.

Though the people of Beijing criticise the Cantonese for eating dog meat, man's best friend is on the menus of some four-star Western hotels in the capital where it could be eaten by unwary visitors. The giveaway is the word "fragrant" used to describe meat.

Yakburger is served up in Lhasa, Tibet. Perhaps it is no different to eating beef, but the yaks one sees on the sweeping plains of Tibet do not deserve such a fate.

As John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, discovered this month, Peking Duck is served with a minimum of meat in China. The skin is the most prized part of the bird, as well as its fat content. The resultant dish leaves one feeling decidedly queasy.

The Chinese are not averse to a joke at other people's expense. A former Foreign Ministry spokesman, to whom I had directed some fairly pointed questions at regular briefings, took his revenge on me and an American colleague when he asked us to dine with him at his favourite restaurant. The plate of scorpions he ordered for us had been fried, but they fully retained the sinister look of their breed with the stinging tails bent back over their bodies. The spokesman picked up the first with his chopsticks, placed it on his tongue, and crunched it with apparent relish, then looked expectantly at us, his guests.

My American colleague blanched, and refused point blank to eat the scorpions. There seemed nothing left to do in this contest of manhood but to pick up a scorpion with my own chopsticks and pop it into my mouth. Somehow we got through the whole plate, washed down with fiery bai jiu, or white spirit, which tastes like aviation fuel.

Later that night, the taste of scorpion kept coming back in a most disagreeable way, and I turned to a Western remedy to get rid of it: several drams of a particularly fine malt whisky.

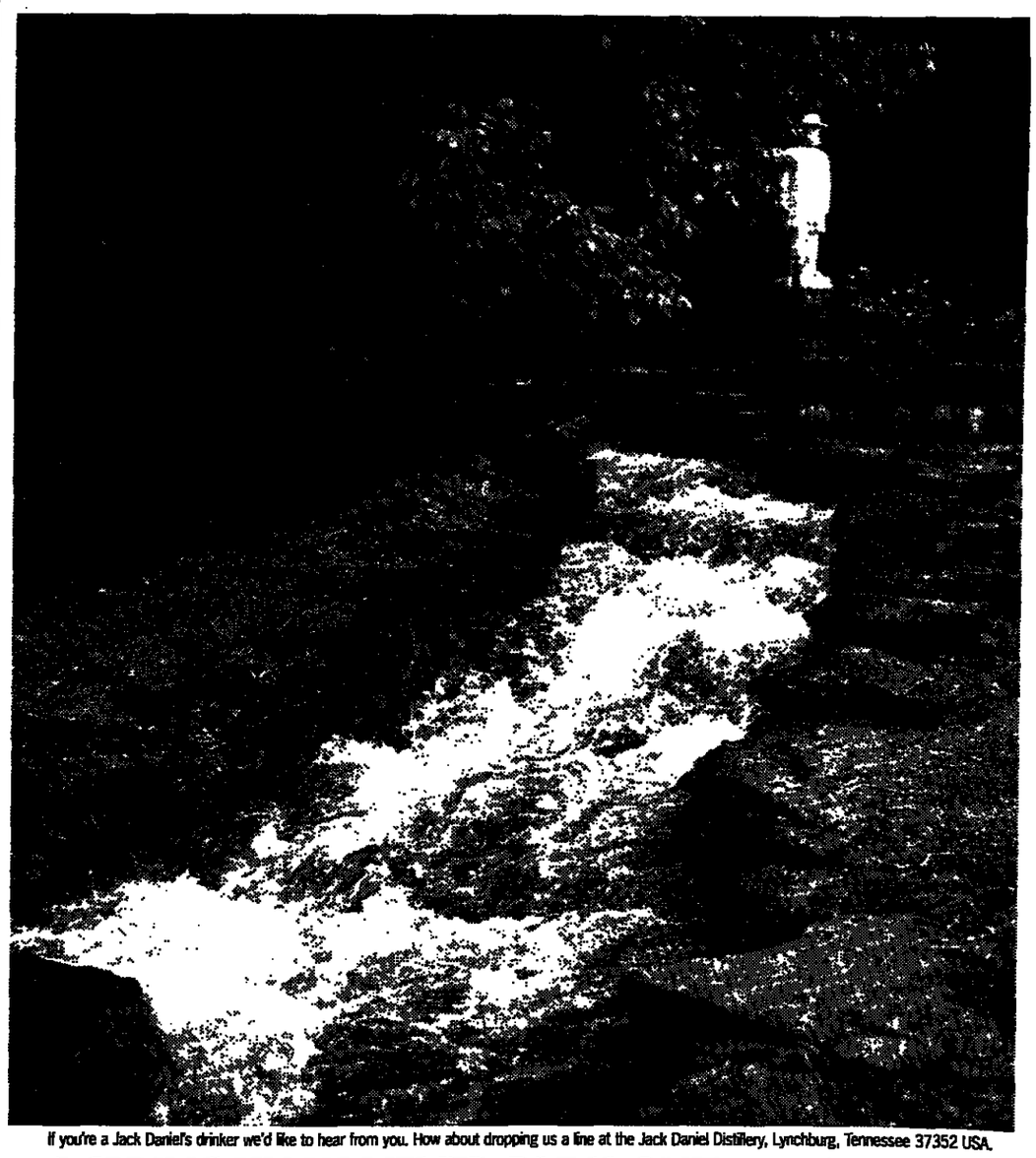
Hull duck, Weekend, page 6

A RARE INGREDIENT

- There are an estimated 5,000 to 7,500 tigers in the wild.
- Up to 4,735 Bengal tigers survive, mainly in India but with some small populations in Nepal, China and Bhutan.
- Siberian tigers number no more than 506.
- About 30 South China or Amoy tigers are wild in China
- The Sumatran subspecies numbers no more than 500.
- The Indo-Chinese tiger, in countries including Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, totals about 1,790.
- The Caspian, Javan and Bali subspecies are thought extinct.
- There are large numbers in zoos and circuses, most descended from several generations of captive-bred animals.



A Bengal tiger was led before the cameras for the cookery show's guests to stroke



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

THE SUNDAY TIMES

INSIDE STORY

'It's like accusing people of having sex with others; you may have suspicions but you never know,' said the senior civil servant'



Who has been talking to Hugh Pym and Nick Kochan, the authors of a devastating account of Gordon Brown's first year in office? This week the chancellor's spin doctors were trying to find out.

Read the first instalment tomorrow in The Sunday Times

Drama teacher's sex change raises few school eyebrows

Paul Wilkinson on the support from staff and parents for a courageous decision

PARENTS of 1,500 pupils at a successful comprehensive were told this week that as from next term Lisa Garside, their drama teacher, will be Michael.

Announcing her decision to swap genders, Miss Garside said: "I had to do this. Medical and legal advice was that it was time to change. I am the same teacher as I have ever been. I shall carry on being the person I have always been and taking part as usual".

The news was broken in an end-of-term message from David Hudson, headmaster of King James' School in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, who went on to say he fully supports her.

Initial reaction from the families of boys and girls at the school was favourable. One parent said: "I am not all that surprised, it's something that we have expected for some time".

Miss Garside, 36, who holds a BEd degree in drama and has an advanced diploma in counselling, has taught at King James' for the past 14 years. She lives alone in a terrace house in Harrogate, where she is a member of the Black Dog amateur dramatic society. She said she had chosen the name Mike because it "just seemed to fit". Being known as Mr Garside from September would be no special problem, because "that is who I am".

Once the school broke up for the summer holiday next week she would begin a hormone replacement course. "I made the decision to tell people because at this point in my life, I have reached the point of transition. It is not something you can do secretively and I thought that it was important that I was open and honest about it. I can not go back, I have to move on."

Staff and pupils had been "superb". The pupils had accepted what she was doing without comment. "I could not have wished for better reactions. You do hear horror stories of people being discarded by everyone. You think you are going to get thrown out on your ear but none of that has happened."

She expected to be "very nervous" on her first day back. "People will call me by the wrong name to start with. We will smile and we will laugh and there may be some tears, but we will get through it," she said.

In his letter to parents Dr Hudson said: "We believe one of the reasons that parents choose King James' School is that they fully recognise the holistic education their children will receive at this school. We cover in full all aspects of equal opportunities, anti-racism, prejudice and sexual discrimination. The school will very shortly be called upon to show that it practises what it preaches.

"It has been an excruciatingly difficult decision for her and has required a great deal of courage. It won't affect her teaching ability one iota."

Dr Carol Walton, the school's deputy head, said yesterday: "The reaction so far has all been favourable. The phone did ring within hours of the pupils taking the letter home, but it was a parent saying they believed we had handled it exactly right."

The school, which became a comprehensive in 1971, was founded as a grammar in 1616. Its girl pupils still wear skirts in the Royal Stewart tartan. Its pride in academic excellence has made it popular with parents.

There is a strong drama tradition and King James's annually puts on a senior play, a large-scale musical and pantomime every year. The school has hosted performances by the Leeds Symphony Orchestra and the London Studio Ballet Company. An Ofsted report in November 1996 praised King James's as a "role model" for other schools



Lisa Garside

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Loophole' row over landmines

Robin Cook and Michael Howard clashed yesterday over the Bill to outlaw anti-personnel landmines, being rushed through ahead of the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Mr Howard, Shadow Foreign Secretary, attacked a "loophole" clause which would prevent British soldiers from being prosecuted if they took part in joint operations with troops from other countries, principally the US, which used landmines. Mr Cook said the clause provided a shield against prosecution of servicemen taking part in Nato exercises.

☐ Queen Noor of Jordan is set to take on the role of patron of landmine victims when she opens a regional conference on problem today. Leading article, page 21

Foxhunting solution

Tony Blair has backed attempts to ease the Government's dilemma over foxhunting by giving councils the power to ban it by holding local referendums. Secret meetings during the past few weeks are likely to result in a statement promising that the Government will pave the way for hunting bans, possibly before the Commons breaks for its summer recess.

Morphine kills boy

A teenage boy died and two girls are seriously ill in hospital after experimenting with morphine-based painkillers used by his mother, who is suffering from cancer. One of the girls left a suicide note the previous day, although police say there is no evidence of a suicide pact between the teenagers. The dead boy, Anthony Stockton, 17, was found unconscious at his home in Bedford.

Academic found hanged

An academic was found hanged weeks after being sacked for plagiarism. Dr Ian Connell, 49, was found guilty of "academic misconduct" at a disciplinary hearing at the University of Wolverhampton in May after a complaint from a student that he had copied his work. The claim was proven and Dr Connell, a specialist in television and media communications, was dismissed on May 7.

Bogus nurse halted

Nicola Oldmeadow, 27, of Hucclecote, Gloucester, tricked the English National Board of Nursing into giving her the secret personal-identity numbers of genuine nurses and then used them to seek work. She was put on probation for two years after admitting three offences of obtaining jobs and payment by deception and three of attempted deception and asked for 17 other offences to be considered.

Man found shot dead

An upholstery company executive has been found shot dead at his desk. Stephen Sweeney, 45, of Gateshead, was found slumped across his papers by Carol Taylor, 38, his girlfriend, and their seven-year-old daughter, Siobahn, when they called at his office after he failed to return home. He had been shot more than once, probably with a handgun. Police were unaware of a motive for the killing.

'Sexism' row settled

Amanda Kelly, £83,000-a-year deputy chief executive of Camden Council, North London, who had claimed sexual discrimination against her boss, Steve Bundred, is to leave her job under the terms of a settlement agreed in principle, it was announced yesterday. Mr Bundred will continue as chief executive. Details of the settlement are not expected to be released for another month.

An unlawful entry

Police had to call for outside assistance when a delivery driver locked her keys inside a van parked outside Cheltenham Magistrates' Court. Two police on duty at the court spent 15 minutes trying to open the door, jeered at by two young men awaiting hearings in connection with motoring offences. Eventually the officers' asked them to help. In two minutes the woman had her keys back.



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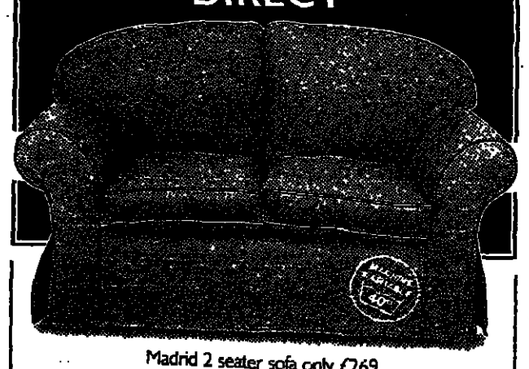
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Simpson

Closing down an era in shopping

By Claudia Joseph and Fraser Nelson

SIMPSON of Piccadilly, the art deco store that has clothed generations of well-heeled gentlemen since 1936, is to be closed in the New Year.

The store, which has Royal Warrants to supply clothing to the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales, was part of Daks Simpson, bought for £65 million in 1991 by Sankyo Seiko, the Japanese textile group. Its 150 staff have been told that the Japanese company deemed the shop "economically and logistically unsuitable". Two-thirds are expected to lose their jobs. The company has decided to open smaller Daks branches around the world.

The company's customers have included Earl Mountbatten, Field Marshals Montgomery and Slim, John Wayne, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Brigitte Bardot, Joan Collins, Cliff Richard, Geoffrey Boycott, Ursula Andress, Roger Moore, Frank Bruno, Clive Anderson and Michael Caine. News of the closure shocked shoppers at the eight-storey building at 203 Piccadilly, which was opened in 1936 by Sir Malcolm Campbell, then the world land-speed record holder.



Simeon Simpson: was founder at 16

Chris Clinch, 67, from Cambridge, said: "When I was in my 20s, everybody wore Daks trousers with their sharp creases. It's like an institution as far as I am concerned. It's always sad to see institutions disappear."

David Lewis, 56, managing director of a small business in Kent, who was wearing a Daks blazer, said: "I'm devastated. It's part of London. I love the art deco which is what first drew me in, but inside just backs it up. They always treat customers in the proper way. It's not the cheapest shop on earth but you pay for what you get."

The House of Simpson was founded in 1894 by Simeon Simpson, who set up his own company as a bespoke tailor on the boundary of the City of London and the East End at the age of 16. His business expanded as new technology became available, opening three factories in London before moving into ready-to-wear clothing for London and provincial customers.

By 1917, the House of Simpson was a remarkable success story. His second son Alexander joined the business at 15. A larger factory was opened in Stoke Newington in 1929, and in 1934 Alexander revolutionised menswear with his self-supporting trousers, nicknamed Daks after Daks slacks.

When Simeon Simpson died at the age of 54, Alexander found himself managing director at the age of 30. In 1936, his rise was complete when he opened the exclusive steel and chrome store designed by leading modern architect of the 1930s, Joseph Emberton.

The firm — of which Georgina, wife of the actor Anthony Andrews, was the heiress — remained in the family until 1991, a year after its West End rival Aquascutum was taken over by Rewown Internationa, another Japanese firm, for £74 million.

Sankyo Seiko thought to change the image with designer wear, the introduction of a Suchi bar and the employment of 12 Japanese staff. It has more than 30 other shops, including two in England at Heathrow Airport and Windsor Royal Station, and will opening a branch in the City of London on Tuesday.

The decision to close Simpson of Picadilly comes after many years of disastrous financial performance. Its accounts show that it has been heavily in the red every year since the recession, and lost over £6.8 million in the five years to 1997. However, customer demand has shown no signs of dwindling. Its sales have been growing steadily, and in the year to 1997 it collected over £16 million in sales.

Simpson of Picadilly has become one of the many London flagship stores to hit financial difficulty in recent months. Lillywhites, the famous Picadilly sports retailer which lies only a few hundred yards away, lost £5.7 million a year over 1996 — even though it took in £23 million through the tills. Its Portugese owners are now considering selling a part of their shareholding.

Harvey Nichols and Harrods have also been affected by lack of tourist spending, which has been badly hit by the strength of the pound. Since Harvey Nichols joined the Stock Market two years ago, it has lost £86 million of its market capitalisation.



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Packing up and ready to go: dummies in the window yesterday. The Japanese owners are planning more small shops worldwide

Plan to bring literature to station platforms

Dalya Alberge finds out about a novel idea to amuse commuters

VENDING machines at railway stations will soon offer travellers more than sweets, chocolates and drinks: the commuter book is about to arrive at platforms throughout the country.

The grandson of Evelyn Waugh has come up with the novel idea of pocket-sized short stories printed on single sheets of paper that can be folded like maps and purchased by commuters from vending-machines.

Stories by D H Lawrence, P G Wodehouse, Arthur Conan Doyle and H G Wells, and sonnets by Shakespeare, are among classics selected by Alexander Waugh, 35, whose company, Travelman, launches the series on July 20. Each story can be read in about 40 or 50 minutes, Mr Waugh says, "which is good for most commuters".

After an initial eight titles, which will include both modern and past masters, a further eight will be published each month, selected by a eight-strong editorial board, which includes Martin Amis, Dame Muriel Spark, Beryl Bainbridge and Mr Waugh's father, Auberon, the editor of *The Literary Review*. Contemporary writers will also be commissioned.

London Underground has asked Mr Waugh to devise a vending-machine that meets health and safety regulations. He has the backing of high-street retailers such as W H Smith and Books Etc, which will stock the range at all its stores, including those at railway stations and airports. They are also considering taking advantage of the coffee-culture boom and marketing the books at cafés.

The idea was sparked off by a conversation with the prize-winning short story writer William Trevor. "The concept in some ways looks back to the hugely successful two-penny short stories that Rudyard Kipling used to sell on the Indian railways," said Mr Waugh.

Each "volume" is no larger than a chequebook, weighs little more than a couple of ounces and is colour-coded according to category — from suspense and science fiction to romance and poetry. They will cost £1, "less than half the price of a birthday card," said Mr Waugh, whose career has included being a concert agent, writing opera reviews and composing a musical.

This marks his first venture into publishing: "Our intention is to build a public perception of the Travelman short story as a jazzy, upmarket, well-edited product. We are convinced that the short story is a woefully under-exploited genre."

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Taking the lead in battle against memorial garden

Alex O'Connell meets the angry dog owners who are united in their views on a new pet subject

THEY keep their noses pretty close to the ground, but everything still looked normal yesterday for the secret army in the battle against the 27-acre memorial garden for Diana, Princess of Wales.

The dogs who bring their owners into Kensington Gardens each day are a key motivation for opposition to the £10 million project, uniting people from a range of backgrounds and neighbourhoods who fear that dogs will be excluded from certain areas and that few allowances have been made for the inevitable increase in traffic.

Among the critics yesterday was Dave Griffin, 50, Princess Margaret's chauffeur, who hobbled after Poppit, "a Heinz 57 dog" who was abandoned ten years ago and now lives in the Palace. He said: "I walk along here every day, and everyone thinks the plans are over the top. The sunken garden behind the Palace would be a much better place. Diana used to go there, and it would make a proper memorial garden: tasteful, rather than American and tacky. That's what most of the people in the Palace think."

As soon as it begins to get light, Kensington Gardens fills up with a range of humanity and their hounds, jogging and strolling together. There are rouge-cheeked ladies who pad around W11 in full countrywear, tough men struggling to control their miniature waggers, and pipecleaner-thin women kissing hairy giants which have the kind of breath they simply wouldn't tolerate from their husbands.

At 7.30am sharp, the art critic Brian Sewell, flanked by two elegant older ladies, tottered through Palace Gate led by his dogs, Mop and Nusch. Mr Sewell, a leading objector to the memorial plan, said: "Diana should be remembered for being someone that cared deeply for the sick and dying, and £10 million should be spent on a permanent hospice for people who are in need of housing."

Mary Debbane, who lives in West Kensington and exercises her West Highland terrier, Charlie, said: "I really think they should be sent packing, and that butler as well" — a reference to Paul Burrell, the Princess's former butler, who sits on the memorial committee. The third member of the party, Victoria Huntington-Whiteley, 63, was



Dogs of war with their owners, from left, Victoria Huntington-Whiteley, Lady Ashtown and Mary Debbane, at Kensington Palace gates

nostalgic. "When I first had children we used to come here with the nanny," she said, keeping an eye on her dachshund, Rudyard. "I come here now from my home in West Kensington with the dogs and my grandchildren, and know the memorial garden will spoil it."

Lady Ashtown, who lives in nearby Kensington Court Place, joined them from across the way, chaperoned by Cosby, an outsized Yorkshire terrier: "I loathe the thought of the memorial garden. It not only affects those who live locally but the whole of London."

Lance Brunnig, 56, from Vicarage Gate, Kensington, walks Fifi, his surprisingly approachable bulldog, in the gardens every morning. He said: "Why ruin it here? It will completely muck up the High Street, and she has a memorial down at Althorp." Lindsey Hill, 42, from West Kensington, had a suggestion: "Put it in the Dome."

Roger West, 51, a builder from Kensington with a rottweiler, Albie, was more optimistic. "I'm not anti," he said. "The staff here do a great job clearing up after the weekends and if it doesn't change my routine, then it's fine."

Public asked to choose 'suitable' Diana products

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

THE public are to be asked what products they believe should carry the image of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, faced with hundreds of requests a week from across the world to use the Princess's image, believe it is time to promote the fund's own range of approved products. They insist that only "tasteful and appropriate" products will be approved. They also believe that a list of licensed products would help to deter pirate firms.

One source said: "Let's see what the public think would be appropriate to her memory. Clearly we are not going to endorse a Diana beer or cigarette, but let people tell us what products are suitable."

Only two licences have been granted so far, for stamps and a candle holder. The most popular request to the fund is for a child's doll dressed in the Princess's most famous fashions.

Lawyers for the memorial fund say they face a potential multimillion-pound battle to combat commerical pirates in what experts believe could be a £200 million-a-year industry.

A £60 porcelain doll dressed to look like the Princess visiting landmine victims will next week be at the centre of the first big test for the memorial fund against the pirates. Lawyers for the fund and the Princess's estate will be in a court in California trying to stop an American mail-order company marketing what it calls The People's Princess Doll.

The company is advertising another, at £120, which features the Princess in what was called her "Elvis dress", a high-collared creation by her favourite designer, Catherine Walker.

The case could take up to two years to resolve, but the fund wants to stop Franklin Mint advertising and marketing immediately.



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Have you ever needed to be in two places at one time?

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Have you ever wanted to know about your rival's latest product the instant it is announced?

Make sure you are ready to log onto the World Wide Web to pick up the details when your rivals announce their latest products. With mobile data you can do this wherever you are. The mobile phone freed you from having to stay in the office for an important call, mobile data will free you from being tied to your office PC. You can make sure that you are as well informed as your customers and suppliers by logging on from anywhere in the world and reading the information. Ericsson's new SH888 makes accessing the Internet on the move a practical proposition.

Have you ever tried to use a computer and modem in a hotel room and given up?

If you are a frequent traveller accessing data, you may have found it less straightforward than it should be. You need all the right connectors. To plug a computer into a standard telephone socket means that you need the right lead. Different countries have a bizarre and incompatible range of sockets. With the SH888 you don't need to worry about sockets and cables because it has an in-built PC card and communicates with your computer directly by infra-red using the same technology as a TV remote control. For international calls a mobile phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.



The new SH888.

Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC modem was contained in a PC card, which slotted inside your computer. The in-built PC card and infra-red technology in the SH888 has a number of benefits, besides removing the need to carry the extra kit and the fact that it's cheaper to buy the SH888 than a mobile phone with separate cable and card.
Traditionally PC cards rapidly drain a computer's battery, especially PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) which use normal Alkaline batteries. Because the modem is built into the phone, the power isn't drawn from the PC. As the phone need only be used on infra-red when you transfer data, the drain on the battery is nominal too. And because it supports the IrDA protocol it is compatible with the widest range of PCs, laptops and PDAs (operating Windows CE 2.0). It's even compatible with the Psion 5 and the Palm III.

So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple, but it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web. Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDA's infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

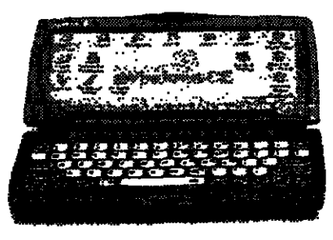
And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail?

Sending and receiving e-mail is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern – so again, you must have an e-mail account with a service provider either privately or through your office. Switch on your PC and phone, line up the infra-red ports and to send or receive e-mail, dial into your office or service provider. Then click on the e-mail or the in-box icons. You need only be on-line to transmit and receive e-mails, so you can read and write them at your leisure without tying up your phone line, keeping your costs down as well as your line free for other business.

The SH888. The best phone from the best manufacturer.

Introducing the SH888 – Ericsson's most technologically advanced phone. As well as an in-built PC card and infra-red communications port, the SH888 boasts the kind of features that you would expect from the Manufacturer of the Year, as voted by the telecoms trade.
The slim battery gives you up to 120 hours standby and 400 minutes talktime on the GSM 900 network, so you may as well leave your charger at home with the cables. And because the SH888 is one of the first dual band phones available, it is the ideal companion on overseas trips. The ability to use both GSM 900 and 1800 MHz networks gives you the widest possible range of roaming partners, making it easier to get a line in remote or congested areas.
The SH888's already superior sound design supports EFR (Enhanced Full Rate speech coding) providing speech and reception quality you'd expect from a land line phone. Sleek, black and futuristic with a three line display, it looks as good as it sounds.
On its own it's impressive. With a computer it's amazing. The Ericsson SH888.

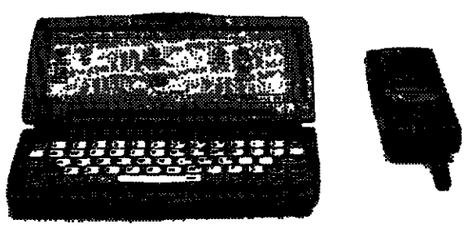
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All you need to do to use the SH888 for Mobile Data. Configure your PC or PDA to use its infra-red port.



Select "Activare IR port" on the SH888 menu.



Put the phone next to the computer with the infra-red ports facing each other and log on using your standard PC software.

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FADING MEMORIES: FIGHT TO SAVE THE FAMILY ALBUM

Why the past is looking

Simon de Bruxelles reports on how modern colour has failed to keep up with the truth in black and white



Wearing well: *La Madonna Aspettante* by Julia Margaret Cameron, 1864

TREASURED memories are slowly fading in the nation's photograph albums. The 1960s are already on their way out. Images of more recent events are destined to be just as fleeting.

Millions of images taken since the invention of modern colour photography are changing because of the way their dyes break down. Just as the 19th century is now viewed in shades of sepia, so future generations may look back on the last three decades of the 20th as the era of purple lawns and red skies.

The short life of colour photographs is a headache for gallery and museum curators and archivists from 21 countries who are gathering in York this month to discuss ways to slow the ageing process, as part of the Arts Council's Year of Photography. But it is a more personal disaster for generations whose most cherished moments are proving far more fleeting than they ever imagined. The 21st century may inherit a better record of Victorian ancestors posing sternly in black and white than of the present generation.

Kate Rouse, archivist for the Royal Photographic Society in Bath, said: "After about 30 years, you begin to see a degradation of the image. The three dyes which make up the picture fade at different rates and there is a shift in colour.

"Eventually the image is just going to fade away. We are reaching the point where the first ones have started to degrade and people are beginning to notice."

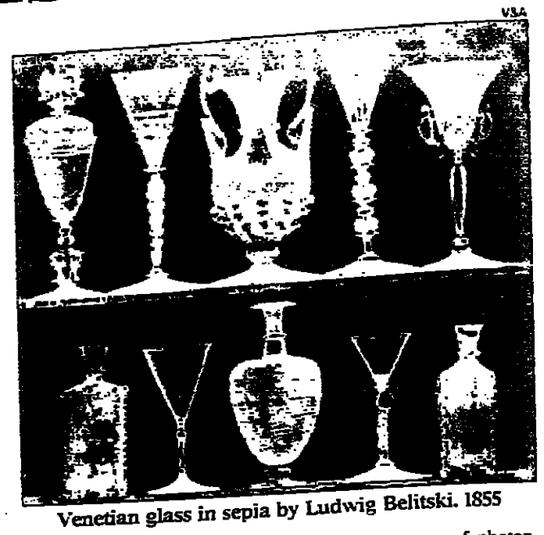
Kodak invented the Instamatic camera in 1963, and began the mass marketing of colour film. Until then, virtually all photographs had been in black and white. In the early 1970s, sales of colour outstripped black and white and today it accounts for all but a tiny percentage of the 96 million films sold in Britain each year.

There have been refinements since, but the principle of using layers of cyan, magenta and yellow dye to produce a colour image has remained the same. Ken Rogerson, technical manager for Fuji, said: "Organic dyes are inherently liable to fade, and they all fade at different rates. I don't want it to sound like a Doomsday scenario, but ultimately they will break down into a colourless compound.

"Whites in a print may also turn yellow with time. Black and white is a metal image and has far greater stability."

The fading may be only gradual, but, as each dye breaks down, the colour of the image distorts. Skin tones can turn a deathly blue. The conditions in which the print is kept determine which dyes go first. Light, heat and humidity are the death of a colour photograph.

Put a portrait of a loved one in a frame on the window sill and you can kiss their picture goodbye. Even indirect sunlight can bleach the image within months.



V&A

Venetian glass in sepia by Ludwig Belitski, 1855

Keeping it in the dark in the fridge will prolong its life, but not indefinitely. Hanging on to the negatives is no guarantee either, as they use similar dyes, and forget transparencies if you want to look at the photographs. Slides can start showing signs of colour change in less time than it takes an oil painting to dry if left in front of a projection bulb.

Works of art are also affected. Many of the most recent works in the Victoria and Albert Museum's vast collection are unlikely to outlast original prints made by great Victorian photographers such as Julia Margaret Cameron and David Octavius Hill. Mark Hayworth-Booth, the museum's curator of photography, said: "Colour is the contemporary medium of photography. I feel it is important that museums try to represent what artists are actually doing, even if they are using the 'wrong' materials.

"The Cubist collages made of newspaper turned brown almost immediately, but that doesn't make them any less important. Most of our photographs spend their lives in the dark to keep them as long as possible. Their moments of fame are really quite brief."

The artist David Hockney keeps his work in a cold store in Los Angeles. He acknowledges that much it has a limited life span. In the introduction to a recent exhibition of his work in Bradford, he

Continued on page 9

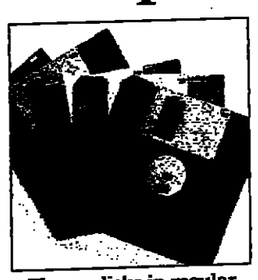
The battle to put

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

NOTHING lasts for ever, and that is Boris Pretzel's problem. The materials scientist at London's Victoria and Albert Museum looks after some of the most fragile artefacts made by man. Colour photographs are positively stable when compared with the ancient textiles, tribal feather costumes and Old Master drawings for which he is also responsible.

If the V&A ever decided to include fax paper in its collection, Mr Pretzel would have to find a way of stopping it turning to dust. The paper has a shorter lifespan than a 1960s paperback or this newspaper: within six months it goes brown and curls at the edges. Keep it in a PVC folder and the chemical reaction will destroy it in one month.

Where fax paper leads, the rest of the written word will follow. Books printed as recently as the 1980s are turning brown and shedding pages, thanks to brittle glue. Sumerian clay tablets and medieval vellum manuscripts may be as readable as the day they were written, but when the next millennium comes round, remarkably little of the 20th century will have escaped history's dustbin.



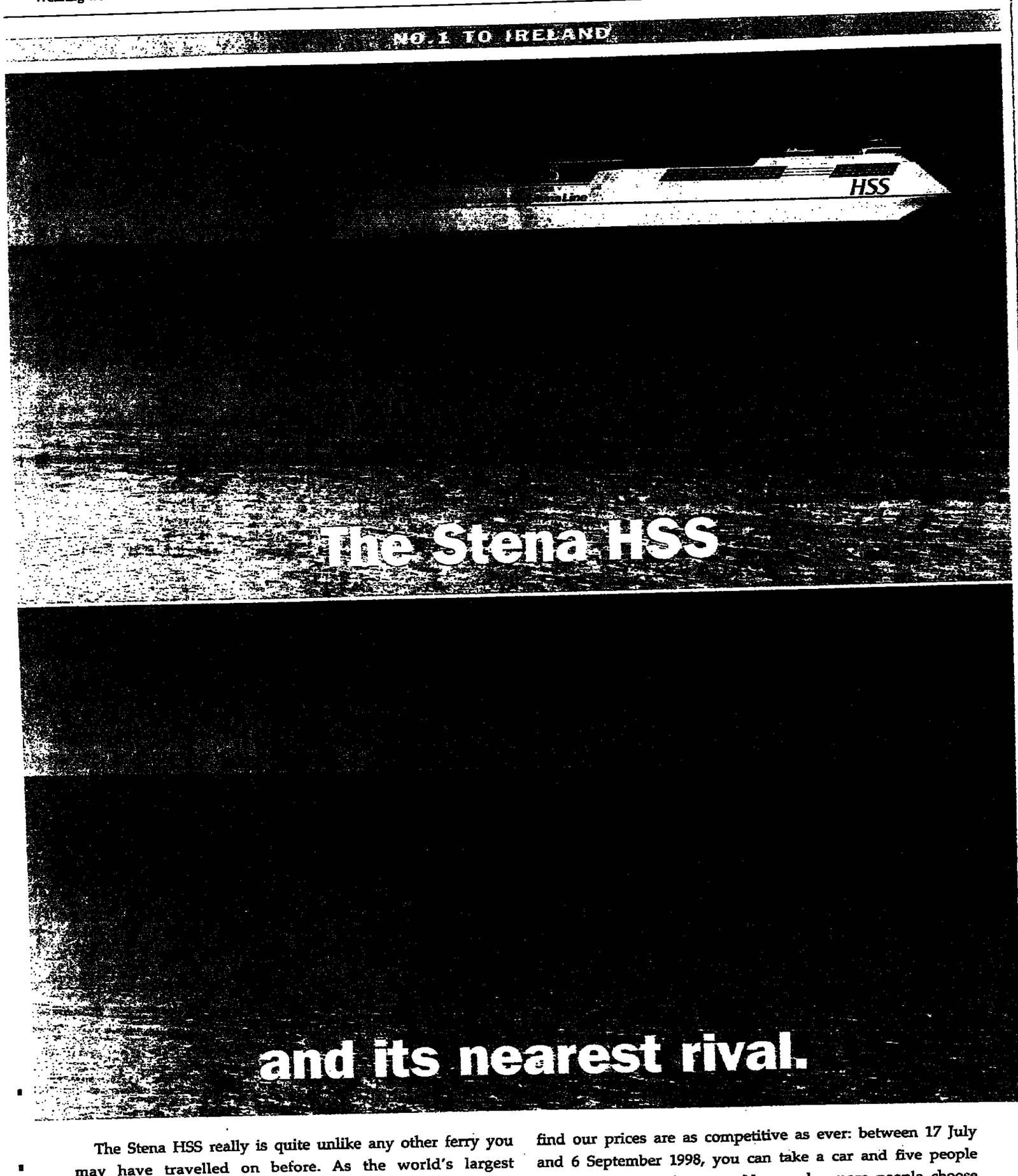
Floppy disks in regular use last as little as a year

Hollywood films suffer the same colour shifts as any family photograph. Earlier movies filmed on cellulose nitrate became explosively unstable and prone to spontaneous combustion. Cellulose acetate, onto which many were copied, developed "vinegar syndrome" — disintegration accompanied by the smell of acetic acid.

Vinyl records have a life expectancy of about 50 years

Continued on page 9

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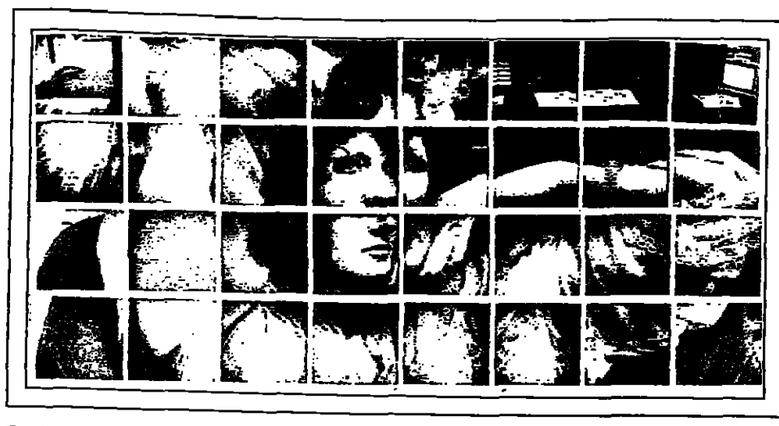
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FADING MEMORIES: FIGHT TO SAVE THE FAMILY ALBUM

just a little too rosy



LOST ART

Colour photographic art is also fading. In the early 1980s, when the British artist David Hockney showed his composite Polaroids — formed from photographs — he had a rubber stamp made saying "Not Recommended for Investment", according to Mark Hayworth-Booth, the curator of photography at the Victoria and Albert Museum. It did not stop them selling. The composite on the left is called *Celia Los Angeles, April 10th 1982.*

Continued from page 8

wrote: "Colour is fugitive in life, like it is in pictures. Colour is the most fugitive element in all pictures, a great deal more than line. The piece of paper is beautiful, it will slowly change like everything else."

Sadly, the change is not always for the better. Lydia Cresswell-Jones, photograph specialist at Sotheby's, said: "We see prints from Hockney's Sonnabend Portfolio, taken in New York in 1976, and they are almost always brown and therefore quite hard to sell.

"It is difficult to value them when they have degraded like that. I think the last one we sold made £260. This is one reason why, for many collectors, black and white is still the colour of photography."

Even the Queen's photograph albums are not immune. Pictures taken by Sir Cecil Beaton in the royal collection are turning blue with age, according to Mr Hayworth-Booth.

With collectors prepared to pay as much as £55,000 for a single print by a contemporary photographer such as Cindy Sherman, the lifespan of the work becomes a matter of economic as well as artistic importance. How much would a Rembrandt etching now be worth if it had begun to fade after 30 years?

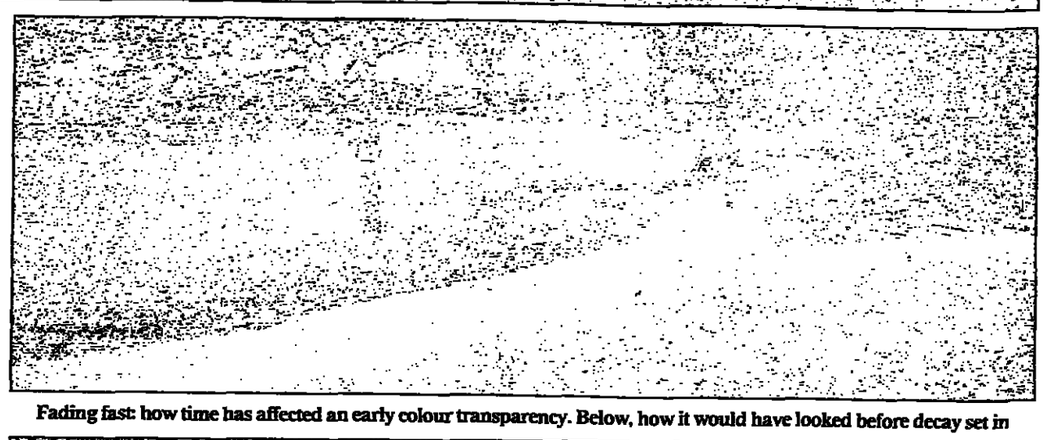
Some manufacturers such as Fuji have begun producing "archival" photographic papers, but they are unlikely to be used by high-street film processors and are not guaranteed to be fade free for more than 50 years.

Davide Faccioli, of the Photology Gallery in Milan, said that his customers were not concerned about their works of art vanishing before their eyes. Most of the pictures he sells end up on a wall rather than inside a fridge. But the market for contemporary colour photography is still too young for age to have become a issue.

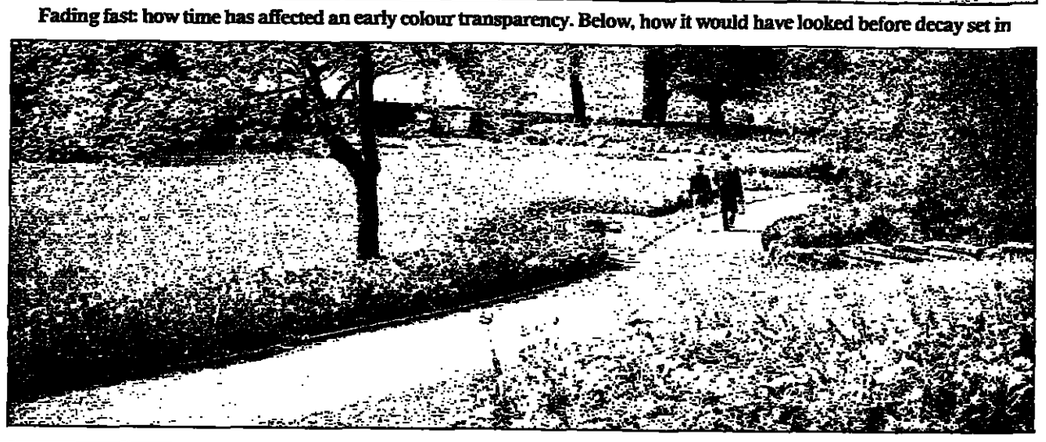
Film is now giving way to the digital image, according to Doug Nishimura, a research scientist at the Image Permanence Institute in Rochester, New York.

However, he advises thinking twice before rushing out to transfer all your photographs on to CD-Rom. Mr Nishimura said: "You have to be prepared to refresh the images every five to ten years as the hardware evolves.

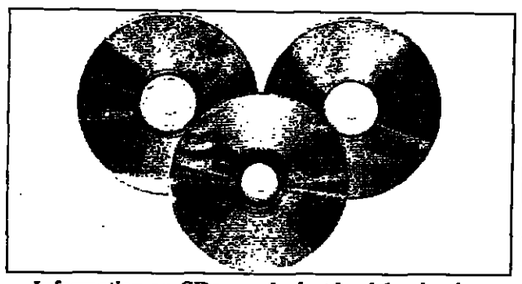
"Otherwise, all you will have in the attic for your grandchildren is a rather nice frisbee."



Fading fast: how time has affected an early colour transparency. Below, how it would have looked before decay set in



off the inevitable



Information on CDs may be lost by delamination

Continued from page 8

before the material begins to break down. Acetate recordings, made before the invention of magnetic tape, have already passed their play-by date.

Audio and video cassette tapes are relatively stable, but wear out quickly when played. A computer floppy disk in regular use could last as little as a year. The newer fast back-up drive has no moving parts but the information contained is attacked by a constant bombardment of neutrinos and high-energy particles.

There have been warnings that the metal and plastic from which compact discs are made will eventually delaminate, destroying the information they contain.

Digital technology may appear to hold greater promise, but beware: you need the hardware to access the information and no one knows what will be available in ten years time, let alone one hundred.

Given the choice, Mr Pretzel would engrave his message to posterity on a gemstone. But even that would not escape the law that decrees that, eventually, everything decays.

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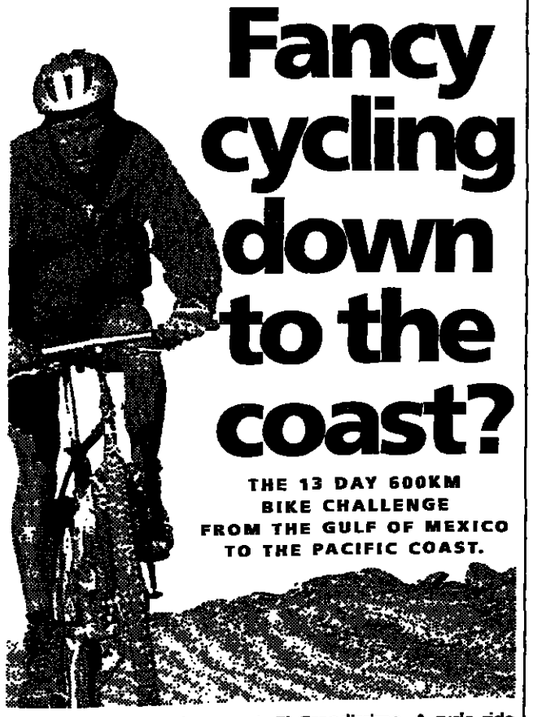
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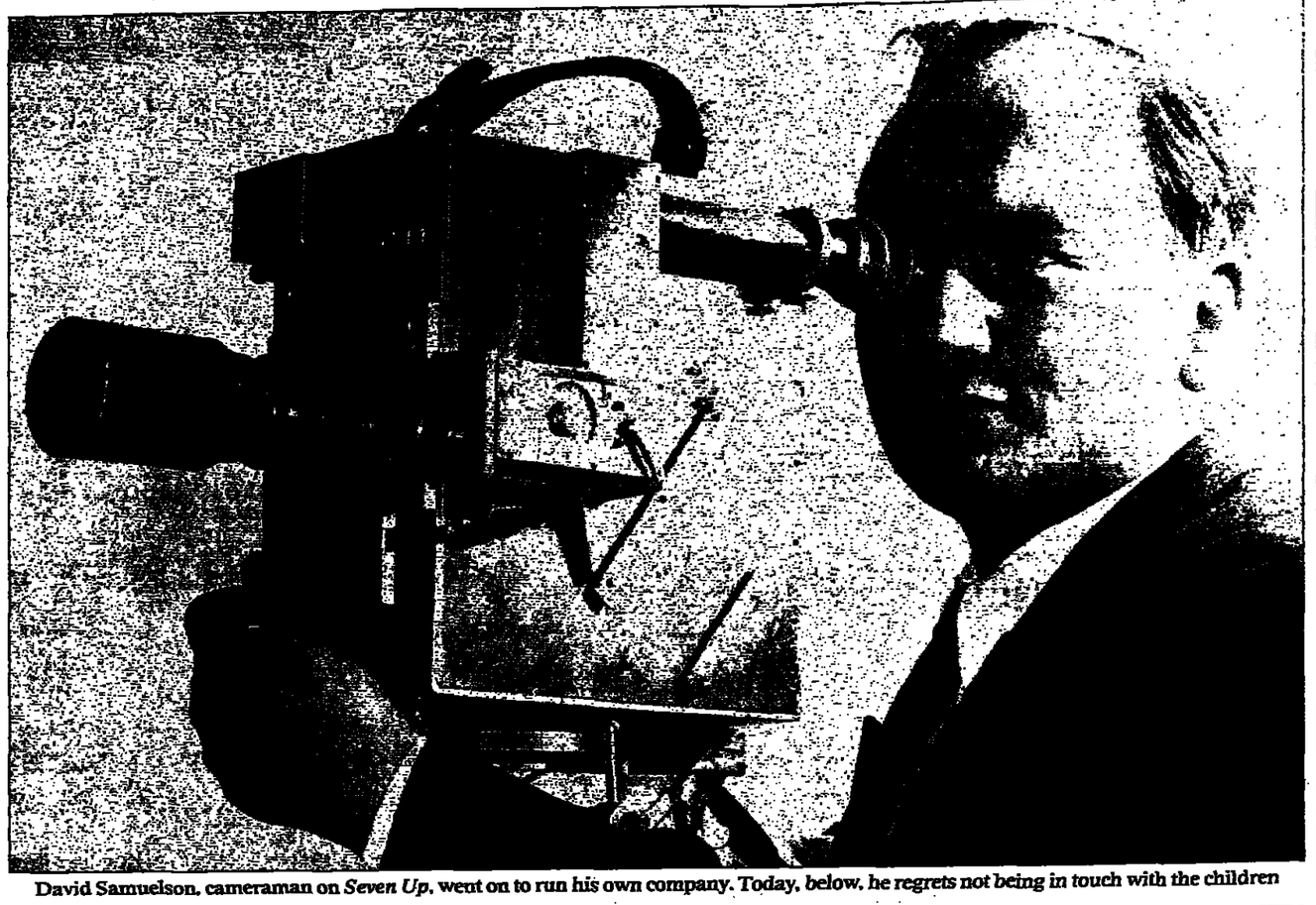
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Whatever happened to the Seven Up crew?

Film-makers still chart the progress of the class of 1964. **Claudia Joseph** turns the spotlight behind the scenes

ADRIAN SHERRATT



David Samuelson, cameraman on *Seven Up*, went on to run his own company. Today, below, he regrets not being in touch with the children

WHILE the public have followed every twist and turn in the lives of the *Seven Up* children, the progress of its makers has been less well known. Members of the *World in Action* team that created the 1964 documentary, chronicling the aspirations of group of seven-year-olds, have gone on to a variety of successful careers.

The original programme commissioned by Granada Television was devised by Tim Hewat, editor of *World in Action*. A 36-year-old Australian, he had edited *The Daily Express* in Manchester before creating the programme that was transmitted on May 5, 1964.

Mr Hewat, now 70, remained at *World in Action* for three years before returning to the newspaper as an associate editor. He and his wife, Ann, who was a casting director at Granada, returned to Australia in 1969 to live with their twin daughters, now 38. He settled near Melbourne and has been writing financial books.

He did not see the last programme, *35 Up*, although it was screened in Australia. "*It will probably turn out to be* the most remarkable television series ever made," he said. "It had a validity because of the class system."

One of the researchers, Michael Apted, was so committed to the original programme that he suggested a follow-up and the series was conceived. He now lives in America but returns every seven years to direct the award-winning show.

Mr Apted was a 22-year-old Cambridge graduate, who had just completed Granada's production trainee course, when he joined *World in Action*. He remained with Granada and worked on documentaries on the Olympics and North Sea oil before becoming holiday relief director on *Coronation Street*. His first love was films, and he began to build a career for himself as a freelance director working on *Triple Echo* and *Stardust*. In 1981 he emigrated to Los Angeles with his wife, Jo, a former model to whom he was introduced by Michael Parkinson.

It was the success of *28 Up*, which won the Flaherty Award, a Royal Television Society award and honours at the 1984 LA Film Festival, that made his name. He is now a Hollywood film director responsible for movies including *Gorky Park*, *Nell* and *Gorillas in the Mist*.

He said: "One of my regrets is that the film lives a bit in the extremes of the social system, and more of the middle ground would have been valuable. My other regret is that of the 14 I originally chose, only four were women. Of the four girls that I chose all pursued the family route."

The other researcher, Gordon McDougall, was also a Cambridge graduate who completed the Granada production course. Today he is the principal of the Guildford School of Acting. Mr McDougall, now 57, was artistic director of the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and of the Oxford Playhouse. But he also produced the Granada series *Crown Court* and set up Granada's Stables Theatre Company, which produced Maureen Lipman and Richard Wilson. Mr MacDougall said of the series: "I think it's fascinating in terms of individuals. But I'm not sure it tells much about society."

David Samuelson, now 74, the cameraman, filmed all the children at eye level. He and his two brothers went on to own one of the biggest international camera and crew rental companies. His own contribution took the form of inventions. He created the head for the remote camera crane, and has written numerous books on film technology.

"The children who were picked out were absolutely marvellous," he said. "One of my sadnesses is that I have never been invited back to meet the kids I filmed so many years ago."

Four of the original children have dropped out of the series. But Symon, Sue and Nick are among the remainder who return in two shows being screened next Tuesday and Wednesday on BBC1.

Symon, an only child brought up in an orphanage, never knew his father. He has one broken marriage behind him, five children and a stepdaughter.

When he was 14 he said of his father's "What you don't have you don't miss." But he has named his son Daniel, 4, from his second marriage, after his father and admits that he sees too little of his four elder children. His dreams of becoming a film star never reached fruition, and by the age of 21 he was working in a factory. Despite saying "I couldn't stay here that long or my mind will grow dead", he was still there at 28 and remained there until it closed. However, he has just returned to education and has taken a GCSE in mathematics.



Symon at the age of 7, 14, 21, 28, 35 and 42. After working in a factory, he has returned to education and has taken a GCSE in mathematics



Sue, the daughter of a Cockney cabinet-maker, said when she was 14: "I don't think I'd get married too early. I'd like to have a full life first. I would like to meet people." But by the age of 18 she had a broken engagement, and by 30 she had split up with her husband, Bill, and had two young children, William and Kathryn. "Deep down, I probably wish I wasn't having to do this," she admitted. "I would like to still be married."

When Nick, a farmer's son who grew up in the Yorkshire Dales, was seven, he said: "When I grow up, I'd like to find out all about the moon and all that." He read physics at Oxford University, moved to America to pursue research, and is now an associate professor of nuclear fusion at the University of Wisconsin.

Paxman waits for the news on his future

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV will settle one of the BBC's most uncomfortable debates next week when it decides the line-up for its new American-style current affairs show, *60 Minutes*. The announcement could decide whether Jeremy Paxman defects from *Newsnight*.

Paxman is the preferred front man for Granada and United/MBC, two of the four companies bidding for the £8 million-a-year contract to make the programme. Granada is rumoured to be the favourite to win.

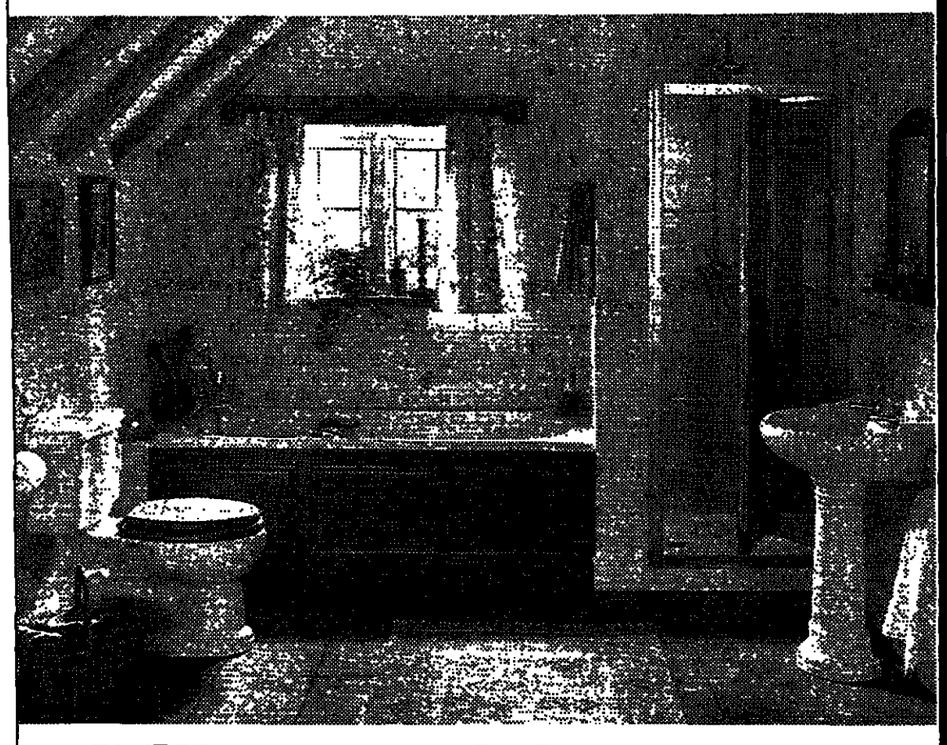
The BBC refused to comment on the issue yesterday, saying that it never discussed contractual matters. Paxman's agent also flatly refused to discuss the matter, but the presenter is understood to be frustrated by the creative opportunities open to him at the BBC and sources say the fact that he allowed his name to be attached to the bids has left executives worried.

He lost the contest to present *Question Time* to David Dimbleby, who was also the BBC's chief anchorman on general election night. A BBC source said: "His contract is up this year and this shows he is seriously considering leaving."

The job of presenting *60 Minutes*, modelled on the highly successful CBS magazine programme that began in 1968, will have a reported £500,000 salary. Some ITV executives believe that a line-up of *News At Ten*'s Trevor McDonald with Channel 5's Kirsty Young — the team allegedly favoured by the other two bidders, Carlton and 20/20-ITN — will appeal more to ITV viewers and draw them into the serious issues. They fear that the intellectual style of Paxman may be too lofty for the audience.



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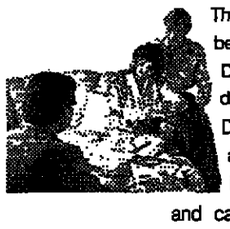
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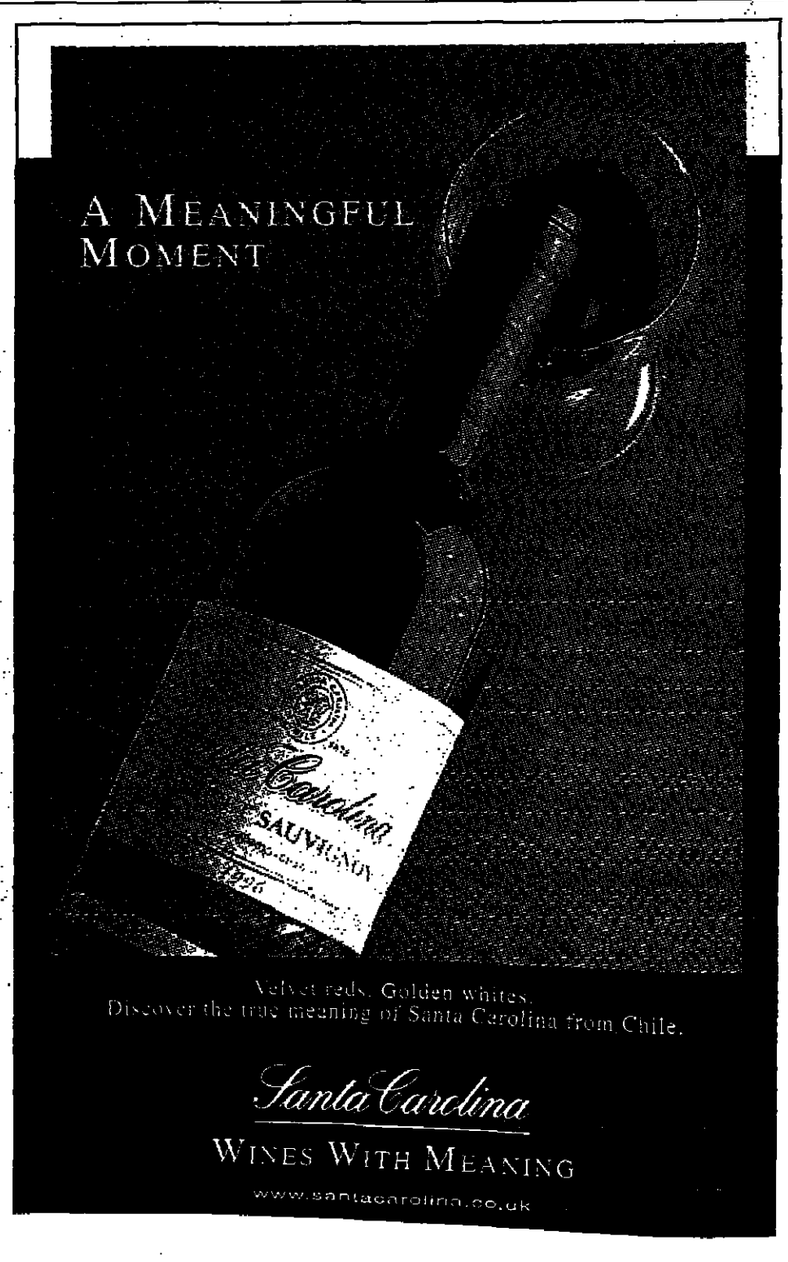
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Paxman waits for the news on his future

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT





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Fame at last for pre-Fab Five

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



WHEN John Lennon and the other Beatles first came to America in 1964, the mop-tops flew into New York and were mobbed at the airport by thousands of screaming teenage fans.

Their debut appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* drew a record television audience of 70 million and a congratulatory telegram from Elvis Presley. On a subsequent trip to America, Lennon proclaimed that the group was better known than Jesus Christ.

When The Quarrymen, Lennon's original band, touched down at John F. Kennedy this week for its first American tour, US Customs kept them behind for hours to inspect their instruments.

Instead of the luxurious Plaza hotel on Central Park, they headed to an inn about an hour north of the city. Rather than the current equivalent of Ed Sullivan, they played private parties and local picnics.

Nevertheless, after a break of 40 years, the ageing Quarrymen have now finally hit the Big Apple, Lennon's adopted home.

"We are walking memorabilia," said Pete Shotton, Lennon's best friend since the age of six and co-founder of the group that became the Beatles. "We are the band that gave birth to the Beatles." The Quarrymen, named after Lennon and Shotton's Quarry Bank Grammar School in Liverpool, slowly metamorphosed into the Fab Four as band members left and joined the group. It was during a Quarrymen gig at a village fête on July 6, 1957 in Woolton, outside Liverpool, that Lennon first met Paul McCartney.

The five original Quarrymen decided to make a comeback after running into each other at a party at The Cavern in Liverpool.

Although they are all now in their late fifties and had not played for decades, they performed last year on the 40th anniversary of the Woolton picnic and have since recorded their own CD. "I feel like an ageing and nervous rock star," said Colin Hanton, the drummer who preceded Ringo Starr when the band was John, Paul, George and Colin. "We have not kept up our music. When I stopped in 1959, that was it."

Chatting over a beer before a gig at a club in Greenwich Village, none of the Quarrymen expressed any regret about having left the group that became the world's most famous band. Shotton (who plays washboard!), became a businessman; Hanton is an upholsterer; Rod Davies (guitar and vocal) became a travel agent; Len Garry (guitar and vocal) an architect; and Eric Griffiths (guitar) a prison official. "Your mothers say, 'Get a good, steady job'," Davies said. "We did and now we are doing what we should have been doing." While in New York, the band planned to visit the Ed Sullivan theatre, stop by the spot in Central Park that was renamed Strawberry Fields after Lennon's assassination nearby in 1980, and call up Yoko Ono for a beer. Beatlemania has given them a certain fascination for fans, and they were pursued by the occasional autograph seeker fascinated by the rockabilly roots of the Beatles music. "We are the pre-Fab Five," boasted Davies.

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The Quarrymen, John Lennon's original band, have finally hit the Big Apple, their guru's adopted home

Gambler just goes for bust



THE new US edition of the British men's monthly *Maxim* has created a big buzz with its profile of a male Las Vegas gambler who had breast implants for a $100,000 (£61,000) bet.

It profiles Brian Zembic, 37, "a guy who'd do anything to win a bet". Originally from Winnipeg, Canada, Mr Zembic agreed to keep the implants for a year, and the magazine publishes photographs of him with 14oz saline bags in each breast to prove it. "I was afraid of popping them," the busty Mr Zembic admitted. "I thought that if I touched them hard, they might fall out."

As soon as the article appeared, the phone started ringing with Hollywood film producers and "strange-but-true" television shows seeking an appearance.

Mr Zembic won his bet in October and has already collected his winnings. But he still has the breasts. "It is kind of fun to have them," he confesses. "Having breasts gives you insight into what life is like for women. You start to see what pigs men are."

Stage guerrillas



A Guerrilla Girl

THE Guerrilla Girls, a feminist group who don gorilla masks to stage high-profile protests against sexism in the art world, are now taking on the New York theatre community. In recent weeks, members of the group, who take their *noms de guerre* from famous women artists, have started to target theatres with the same kind of stunts that have proved so successful against art galleries which fail to show work by women.

The ladies' rooms of several off-Broadway houses have been plastered with flyers reading: "In this theatre the taking of photographs, the use of recording devices and the production of plays by women is strictly prohibited — The Management."

The group credits its campaign for the success of women at this year's Tony awards, with Julie Taymor (*The Lion King*) and Garry Hines (*The Beauty of Leenane*) becoming the first women to win awards for *directing*.

"We've seen improvement in the theatre world over the last couple of weeks, and we take total credit for it," said the pseudonymous Gertrude Stein.

Britain's Great White Hope for the world hot-dog-eating championship bit off more than he could chew when he flew here for the Coney Island contest.

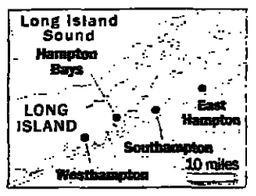
Barry Noble, from Northumberland, brought with him a fearsome reputation as the world's haggis-eating champ. Unimpressed, a sharp New York taxi driver quickly got the better of him. When Mr Noble hailed a cab for a two-block ride to his hotel, the cabbie set off on a tour of Manhattan and charged him $40 (£24.50). "I was a bit cheesed off," Mr Noble said.

Unfortunately, Mr Noble only managed 11½ hotdogs to claim ninth place in the championship, which was won for the third consecutive year by the tiny "Tokyo Terror", Hirofumi Nakajima, world record holder with 24½. But Mr Noble won plaudits from the organisers. "We were very impressed with his cross-platform eating ability," said George Shea for Nathan's Hot Dogs.

A discreet classified advertisement in *Dan's Paper*, the weekly that services the Hamptons on Long Island, is causing big headaches for some of the celebrities who summer in the high-priced beach resorts.

"Attention billionaires and millionaires — do not read this," it read. "Domestic and service people, tell me your stories of the people you work for. Are they nice, mean, considerate, ungrateful, generous, cheap?"

The "gentlemen's gentleman" named "David", who placed the request (insisting on anonymity for fear of offending his employer), says he is gathering information



for a book on what it is like to be a domestic servant in supposedly classless America. He has already unearthed some nuggets. One billionaire socialite gets her staff to clip discount coupons from the newspaper and redeems them at supermarkets blocks from her Fifth Avenue flat. Another counts how many sugar lumps her staff consume.

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Poison alert for Milosevic



Marshal Tito liked plain Yugoslav food

Tito's food-taster tells Tom Walker about the perils of kitchen cutbacks

THE former food-taster of the late Marshal Tito has warned President Milosevic of Yugoslavia to be on his guard against poisoned meals.

In the climate of desperation that pervades Serbia, where there is little money to spend on the state entourage, Colonel Branko Trbovic, 63, has advised Mr Milosevic that the last people he should fire are his culinary advisers and personal scientists. "All I can say is that it must be very hard for him," he said at the tennis club where he now uses his skills to produce low-calorie meals for Belgrade's dwindling elite. "When I was at the presidency, we had many people in the team. The whole world is turning against President Milosevic and it's getting very difficult to protect him with such a small staff."

Colonel Trbovic's autobiography, charting his colourful career behind the scenes with Tito, has been a best-seller in Belgrade and reveals the extraordinary lengths taken to keep potential assassins away from the President's kitchen. Colonel Trbovic, a biochemist by training, said that in Tito's former Belgrade residence, the White Palace, where he worked until 1992, there are log books recording every meal he ate.

Between 1957 and 1980, the year Tito died, Colonel Trbovic and his team brought vast reserves of food into the palace, where it was analysed by his laboratory and deemed fit for consumption by the Yugoslav communist hierarchy. "Each leader had a number against his food, but we would swap numbers all the time for additional security," he said.

Wherever Tito went, said Colonel Trbovic, his food would first be tested for traces of explosives. Then epidemiologists, bacteriologists, toxicologists and radiologists analysed it in turn. In Third World countries, Tito would simply bring his own supplies of food, and in more developed nations there were additional plans to avoid embarrassment.

"President Kennendy and his wife Jacqueline asked us to the Waldorf Astoria, and obviously it was a difficult situation so I asked the waiter to give me the menu. Tito said what he wanted and I cooked it and gave it to the waiter to serve him." If there was no escape from an unchecked meal, the leader of the non-aligned world would revert to what he called Plan B: "He would make it look as if he'd eaten a bit, and then leave it."

His work was made easier, he explained, by Tito's simplicity of taste — his favourite food remained Yugoslav home cooking. "We were in the Loire valley once with de Gaulle's chef and after three days Tito had had enough," said Colonel Trbovic. "Either you make me some *sarma* stuffed cabbage [a classic Slav dish] or I'm leaving France," he said.

According to journalists who spoke to Mr Milosevic's entourage at the Dayton peace conference in 1995, the current Yugoslav leader's tastes are equally wholesome. He is said to enjoy roast meat, Californian and local wines and Cuban cigars. When in a good mood, he even makes pancakes.

The colonel has a fondness for Britain, having been rescued from the Dalmatian coast during the Second World War by the Royal Air Force, who flew him and his family to Slovenia and on to Sicily. Later he spent three months training with Scotland Yard, and some of his favourite state occasions with Tito were with the Queen (she was treated to a traditional Yugoslav barbecue, another alleged Milosevic favourite) and Churchill. His least favourite guest was the actress Elizabeth Taylor: "She was a real monster."

Tito was at genuine risk of being poisoned, he said, with the most likely killers coming from the Yugoslav diaspora. "All I can say is that there were all sorts of attempts, but our methods were successful."

He confirmed that Mr Milosevic has a food-taster, but would give no further details. "It's a state secret, but there are still some good people around him."

TOM WALKER



Colonel Trbovic at the tennis club in Belgrade where he now works

Chances of a new Middle East war 'have risen sharply'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE chances of a new Middle East war next year have increased dramatically, according to a confidential annual assessment by Israel's military intelligence.

A senior Israeli security source last night confirmed a detailed leak of the draft report published in the Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot*, which said that the military intelligence corps, known as Aman, had changed its view significantly from last year.

The assessment is likely to alarm the West as Aman's recent forecasts are renowned for their accuracy and objectivity.

According to *Yediot*'s account: "Aman's basic message is that the chances of war for the next year have risen dramatically. Should the political impasse continue, a large-scale conflict with the Palestinians is likely, and there could perhaps be one with the Syrians as well. The Palestinians are really ready for one now."

Much of the grim appraisal is pegged to May 4, 1999, when Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has pledged that he will declare an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if talks with Israel on a final peace accord stay deadlocked. Yesterday's leak came as US officials talked to Palestinian negotiators in Washington in yet another attempt to surmount obstacles which have prevented Israel and the PLO holding talks since March last year. US officials were pessimistic.

The Aman assessment concurred with those by security experts at Western embassies in Tel Aviv. There is a fear that if any full-scale conflict breaks out between Israel and the Palestinians over a unilateral declaration of independence, Egypt, Jordan and Syria might feel pressured to take military action in support of a fellow Arab "state".

Israel has issued a warning that any such Palestinian declaration would trigger a response. Officials have made clear this would involve annexation of areas of the West Bank not yet handed over to the PLO, and a blockade of all Palestinian cities.

☐ Assassination fear: Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, has issued a warning that Jewish right-wing extremists may try to assassinate Israeli officials if the Government hands over territory to the Palestinians, the daily *Haaretz* reported. *(AP)*

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TIM031

Writer finds French icon had Nazi links



Bestselling author worked for Pétain but claimed to be a heroine for the Resistance, writes Ben Macintyre

MARGUERITE DURAS, the French writer revered as a national literary monument, collaborated with the Nazis and then obscured her Nazi past, according to a new biography which has ignited an intense historical and literary debate in France.

The author of *L'Amant [The Lover]* and more than 50 other books, who died in 1996 at the age of 81, was known to have been employed by the Vichy regime of Philippe Pétain, but her work for the pro-Nazi French Government has hitherto been played down or ignored by her defenders, her family and, most notably, herself.

Laure Adler, the biographer, was granted access to a mass of private papers left by Duras, and her resulting portrait is of a writer who willingly worked with the occupying Germans and then portrayed herself as an heroic agent of the Resistance.

"She was rather pro-Pétain and agreed to take part in a book commission that was supervised by the Germans," Adler, a historian, journalist and former cultural adviser to the Mitterrand presidency, told the literary magazine *Lire*.

"She was responsible for deciding whether or not to distribute paper to editors. She always minimised her role, making out that she was nothing but a minor secretary, but that was false. So until the end of 1942, she worked in an organisation run by the Germans, while she claimed to have been a great Resistance fighter," Adler said.

Duras certainly did join the Resistance, but not until late 1943, according to Adler. The new biography, citing "18 boxes of unedited documents that no one has ever read", will appear in bookshops on August 28, but it is already being described as heretical, both for its hard-eyed approach to a literary icon and for raking up the wartime issues of collaboration and Resistance that many would rather forget.

The late President Mitterrand and Maurice Papon, the former bureaucrat recently convicted of war crimes, were among many French notables who played a dubious dual role under the occupation, both working for Vichy and maintaining links with the Resistance, often simultaneously. As Adler observed, in Nazi-occupied France Duras "behaved like many French people, but she always pretended to have forgotten about it".

The Commission for Control of Printing Paper, on which Duras worked, was set up by decree under Vichy and staffed by Pétainists. Given the severe rationing, deciding which publishers should be given paper stocks amounted to an effective form of censorship. Duras did not become active in the Resistance until September 1943, when her first novel, *Les Impudents*, was published. There is no evidence that her publisher was denied paper supplies.

The role played by Duras as part of the Vichy administration was not alluded to in the glowing obituaries after her death and her *Who's Who* entry made no mention of her official work during the Nazi occupation.

In a recent preview of the Adler biography, Pascale Frey, a critic, wrote: "The entire existence of Marguerite Duras was packed with contradictions and ambiguities. She makes herself out to be a great Resistance fighter, but it was a lukewarm and belated resistance, and she worked for years in an organisation controlled by the Germans."

L'Amant, made into a film by Jean-Jacques Annaud in 1992, was a massive bestseller when it was published in 1984 and Duras remains the most widely read French author in the world. Unsurprisingly, therefore, supporters of Duras have leapt to her defence.

Dionys Mascolo, her second husband, has insisted that his companion of 15 years was a "militant" anti-Nazi. "It was pretty rare to have women in the Resistance," he said.

Edgar Morin, a former Resistance fighter, told the magazine *L'Evénement du Jeudi* he had known Duras well in 1943. "We all knew that she had worked in an administrative role distributing paper for Vichy. All the evidence I have heard indicates that she did her best to help the publication of poets and writers she thought were good. She was neither a collaborator nor a Pétainist," he said.

The Times obituary of Duras noted that she was "adept at turning personal reminiscence into universal truth", and it is arguable that guilt resulting from her work under Vichy underpinned her subsequent preoccupation with and denunciation of the horrors of the Holocaust.

In her shift from collaboration to Resistance, Duras appears to have followed the path of other French intellectuals, and another incident uncovered by Adler illustrates the moral ambiguity of the time and the bizarrely intimate interreaction between occupiers and occupied.

In 1943 Robert Antelme, her husband and another Resistant, was arrested and deported to Dachau. At the time Duras was having an affair with Mascolo, but she went to the Gestapo headquarters in Paris to try to discover her husband's fate and there met a certain Delval, the officer who had arrested her husband.

"For months she kept up a very strange relationship with this man," Adler said. "After the Liberation she was absolutely determined to have him arrested."

Duras sent Mascolo to Delval's home. "Delval had already been imprisoned, but Mascolo fell madly in love with Mme Delval, with whom he had a child. Marguerite never knew about it," Adler said.

The new biography is unlikely to settle the question of whether Duras should be seen as a collaborator or a wartime hero.

Instead, it may underline a more complex historical truth: that this was a time and a place when it was possible, indeed common, to be both.

S. BASSOULS / SYGMA



Laure Adler, left, uncovered a well-kept secret about a literary giant, Marguerite Duras, right, but her findings have been condemned as heretical

Marguerite Duras
Le ravissement de Lol V. Stein



Hi ho, hi ho, it's back to work we go

Paris: Striking costumed performers from Disneyland Paris called a halt last night to a 17-day dispute over pay, the longest staff walkout to hit the amusement park since its launch in 1992.

The decision came after the Government refused to step into the dispute by naming a mediator, trade union officials said. The strikers had been refusing to return until the park agreed to enforce labour agreements officially recognising them as "artists" and "performers", a move that would boost their pay from Fr5,800 (£580) a month to Fr8,000. Trade union leaders said the strikers — 100 of the park's 220 performers, according to the unions, but only 40 according to the management — would return this weekend, but would continue to press their demands. *(AFP)*

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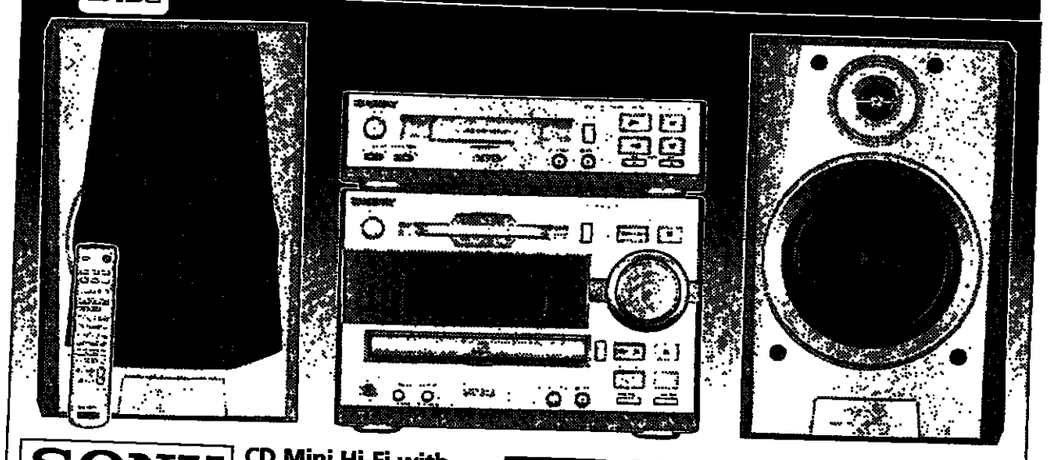
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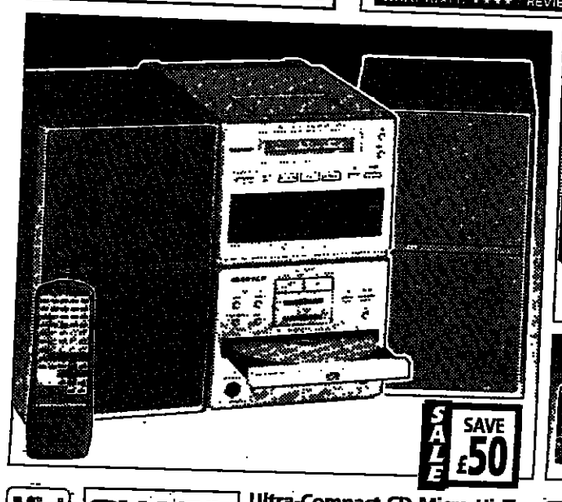


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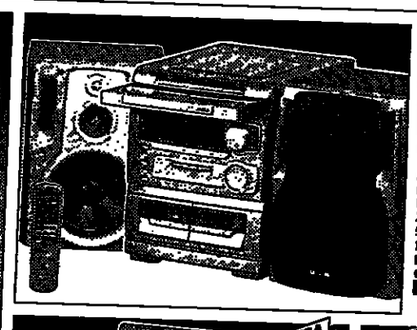
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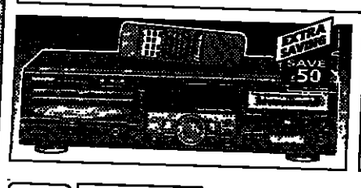


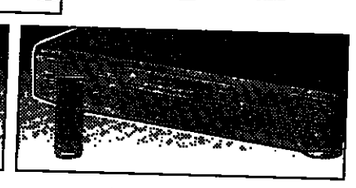
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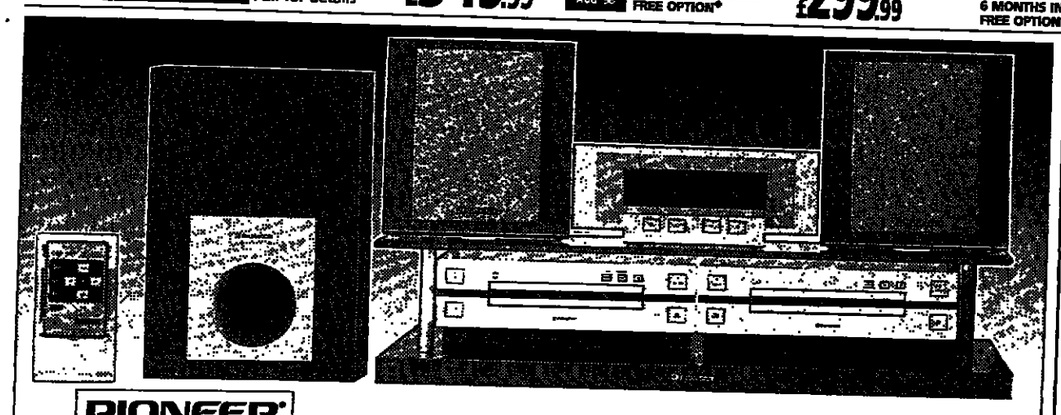
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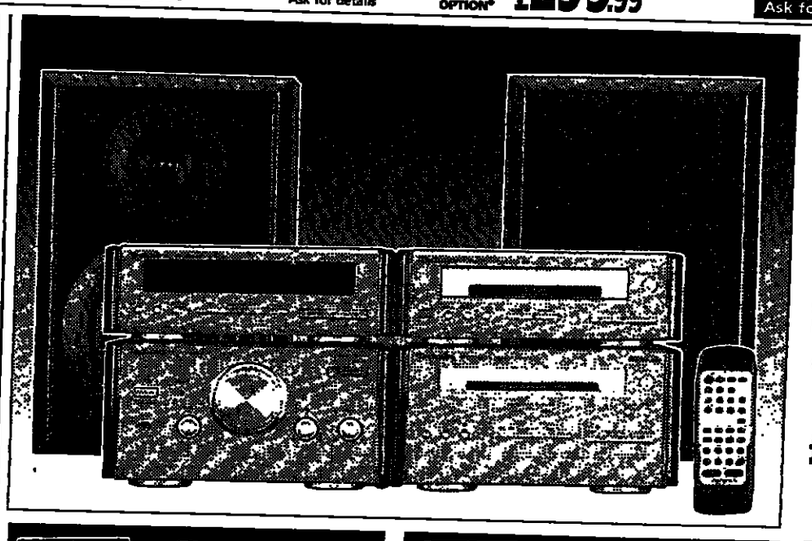
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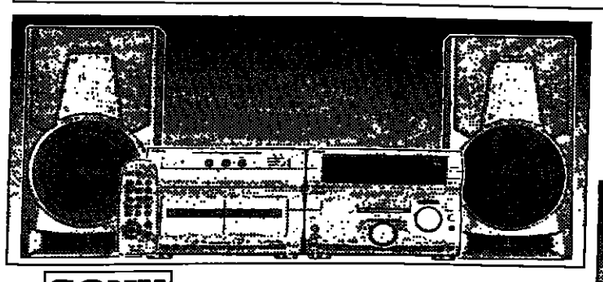
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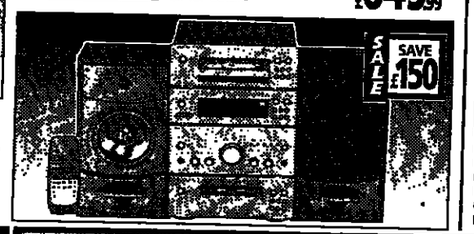


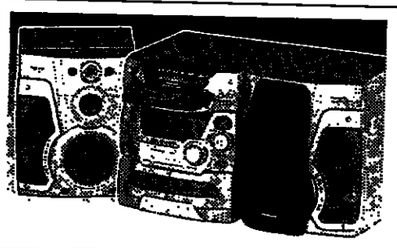
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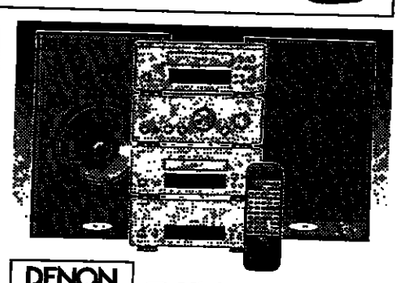
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Lawyers lambast electric shock judge

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

OUTRAGE mounted yesterday over a Californian judge's use of an electric stun belt to silence a defendant.

Ronnie Hawkins, who received an eight-second, 50,000-volt shock to shut him up during a hearing last week, said yesterday: "I was paralysed for about four seconds. I guess that's how a guy feels who goes to the electric chair." His sentencing was postponed until July 29 because Hawkins said he needed to recover from being jolted.

The remote-controlled device is worn under prison clothing and designed to floor a charging, angry inmate. The spectacle of a judge ordering its use to silence a prisoner who was speaking in his own defence left legal experts appalled yesterday. "It's battery," said Marcia Morrissey, president of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice.

Hawkins was acting in his own defence in a hearing to decide whether he would go to jail for 25 years to life for petty theft under the state's "three strikes" law, which requires a life sentence for anyone who receives a third felony conviction. He had been made to wear the stun belt because he had a reputation for unruly behaviour.

Judge Joan Comparet-Cassini, of Long Beach Municipal Court, ordered her bailiff to activate the belt after Hawkins continued to interrupt despite having been twice removed from court. She was refusing to comment on the incident yesterday.



REUTERS

Chinese soldiers rescue survivors from a flooded market in Chengdu, capital of the southwestern province of Sichuan, as the death toll from the country's annual flood season rose to at least 590. The air force has flown more than 30 missions to deliver supplies to those trapped in five flood-hit provinces, according to the Xinhua official news agency. Aircraft have also taken reconnaissance photographs to provide flood control officials with information about the weather and conditions in affected areas. More rain was expected in Sichuan, where floods caused by torrential rains that began on June 27 have already killed 170 people and injured more than 1,750 others. The weeks of flooding and sweltering summer heat prompted authorities in the southern city of Guangzhou to ban raw seafood and sashimi, Japanese-style sliced raw fish, to stem an increase in cholera, dysentery and other intestinal diseases. *(AP)*

Death toll in Chinese floods nears 600

Abiola dynasty gathers

David Orr watches preparations for a flamboyant funeral in Lagos

FLAMBOYANT in life, flamboyant in death, Chief Moshood Abiola was being mourned yesterday with the pageantry befitting an *oga* (big man).

Among the surging crowd at his Lagos villa were his two "official" wives, an unknown number of concubines, countless weeping offspring, all manner of grieving relatives, dependents, hangers-on, and hundreds of students chanting songs and waving posters of the late M. K. O. Abiola's smiling face.

Elsewhere in Nigeria's biggest city, with ethnic tensions running high, police reported the discovery of bodies of nine members of the northern Hausa group. Youths from Chief Abiola's Yoruba tribe, predominant in the southwest, have been rampaging through some areas since his death, setting fires, smashing windows and blocking roads. The disturbances yesterday spread north to the Yoruba university city of Ibadan.

At Chief Abiola's villa, courtiers prepared the carcass of a great bull for the funeral feast and servant women sliced up offal and tripe. A student leader, clad in black, launched into a speech.

"Chief M. K. O. is an enigma, and an enigma never dies," he shouted. "He will never die. Abiola is a hero, a martyr. Our hope has died, we're not mourning Abiola, we're mourning Nigeria." Visitors arriving at the house passed a grave, freshly dug in the lawn beside the tomb of Chief Abiola's first wife, Simbiat. His second wife, Kudirat, assassinated two years ago, is buried at the back of the property.

Relatives and family friends were escorted by solemn young men into a ground-floor reception room where Adebisi Abiola (senior wife) and Doyin Abiola (junior wife) sat on a long couch. Respects paid and condolences offered, the mourners sat down or retired to the bustling courtyard.

I enquired of Felix, a local newspaper reporter: "How many wives are there?" He replied: "That's not easy to say. According to Muslim law, he was only entitled to four wives. But there were a lot of unofficial wives and concubines. It's now got to the stage where there are disputes between them. Just now I saw one I'd never seen before. Another wife tried to chase her away but she fought back."

"And his children?"

"That's more difficult," said Felix as more mourners pressed forward. "But certainly not less than two dozen and possibly a lot more."

Inside the house, mourners were continuing to prostrate themselves in front of the two wives. Dupe, a younger, "unofficial" wife, was nowhere to be seen. Felix said she was keeping a low profile after an earlier spat with Adebisi.

The vast, carpeted chambers seem haunted by the ghost of the deceased chief. Huge photographs of him hang on every wall, tables groan under the weight of silver trophies and there are dozens of plaques honouring his prowess in business, sport and public life.

Its gaudily lavish furnishings — the gilded chairs, the sagging drapes, the indoor fountain and the semi-circular cocktail bar — declare this to be the house of a man who rose from poverty to become one of Nigeria's richest men.

Even in death, Chief Abiola continues to exert an influence and to command a fanatical following in the southwest. Yesterday evening Lagos still waited anxiously to know the results of a post-mortem examination of his body and to hear whether his remains had been laid to rest.

Photograph, page 30

WORLD IN BRIEF

Altar boy abuse costs Church $30m

New York: The Roman Catholic Church yesterday agreed to pay more than $30 million (£18 million) to settle lawsuits against a Dallas priest who was jailed for molesting a dozen altar boys (James Bone writes).

Father Rudolph Kos, a former nurse and US Air Force doctor, was sentenced to life imprisonment last year on charges relating to four boys in his flock who said he abused them a total of 1,350 times over an 11-year spell ending in 1992. A Dallas jury ordered the Catholic diocese to pay damages of almost $120 million to the boys. However, both sides agreed to compromise when the diocese said the settlement would force it into bankruptcy.

Briton injured in bull run

Madrid: A Welshman was in a serious condition in a Pamplona hospital, according to doctors, after being thrown to the ground while being chased by bulls during the annual San Fermin fiesta (Giles Tremlett writes). Rob Jones, 40, who is married to a Spaniard, suffered head injuries during the bull run through Pamplona's cobbled central square, halfway along the route of the 900-yard course. A total of 13 people have been killed in the runs over the past 70 years. A 22-year-old American student was gored to death in 1995. Two Britons were injured last year.

Ski crash pilots face life

Washington: The Pentagon last night ordered courts martial on charges of negligent homicide against the pilot and navigator of a Marine jet that killed 20 people in a collision with an Italian cable car in February (Tom Rhodes writes). Captain Richard Ashby, 31, and his navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, 30, could face life in prison if convicted for the incident which occurred at the ski resort of Cavalese in the Dolomites.

Diana bodyguard sues



Paris: Trevor Rees-Jones, right, the bodyguard injured in the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, has filed a suit against *Voici*, the French photo magazine, for publishing what he calls a "fake" interview quoting him as blaming Dodi Fayed for the accident. The bodyguard, the sole survivor, has demanded Frl million (£100,000) in damages. A civil court will hear the case on July 23. The magazine declined to comment. *(AP)*

Easyjet flies into trouble

Athens: An Athens court imposed a temporary ban on all advertising by Easyjet, the British cut-price airline, hours before its launch yesterday of a $30 (£18.75) Athens-London single-ticket deal. A court source said Thursday's ruling came after complaints from four Greek travel agencies which, fearing lost trade, called the firm a "corporate hooligan". The case will be heard on July 21. *(AFP)*

Mean menu for dogs of war

Moscow: The Russian military has apparently found a new way to cut costs — it has been feeding some soldiers with tinned dog food instead of meat, according to a newspaper report. Military inspectors checking army food depots near Moscow found 1,000 tonnes of dog food. They also discovered that butter, fish and other products at the depots were bought after their use-by date. *(AP)*

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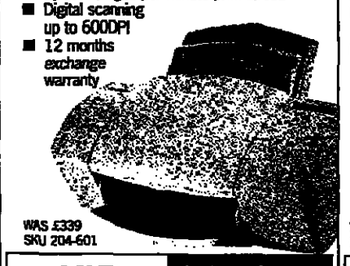
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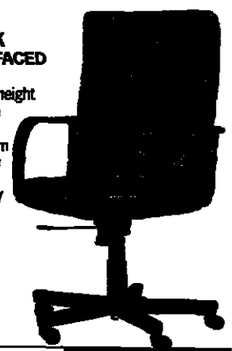
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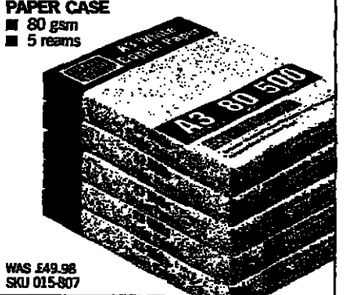
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WORLD IN BRIEF

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Foul fate delivers final humiliation

PAU GASCOIGNE burst into ars. Jimmy Greaves sougbomfort in a bottle. The prospt of missing the World Cup fal, the greatest game of all, rht drive any footballer to th brink or to drink. Tomcow we shall find out what istress it wreaks on poor urent Blanc.

Spt a thought for the Frenc nternational on a day when s remorse may know no bods. A sage once wrote that, hile some football gameffer sudden death, the WorlCup final is the only matchat offers instant immortay. For Blanc it offers nothirbut regrets.

Butor one reckless moment,ie would be at the pinna: of his career. He woulce walking out into the deafeng roar of the Stade de Francin Paris in his country's fi World Cup final.

Hevould be pitting his skillsainst Brazil, the masters the game, for the ultime prize in the sport — the fulment of any footballer's vdest ambitions.

Insd, he will be an outsider: the greatest party his coun has known since liberatiorrom the Nazis. He will be tre among the revellers but ching to slip away forloly.

Beuse of his dismissal in the sni-final against Croatia on Wnesday night for a silly and r from malicious push in arpponent's face, he must sit, vch and fret.

If rance win, will the medne receives compensate for t wretched feeling that he shld have been involved? And they lose, will he ever escar the nagging thought that could have made the differce?

Theemi-final was Blanc's 74th nternational appearance. It was also his first red card. His job as a defender is to destroy, yet he is regarded as a gentleman of the game — the Gary Lineker of French football.

Widely respected after a long and dependable career, at 32 this was probably to be his last international hurrah.

"I have had my piece of the cake but unfortunately I won't be getting my taste of the cherry," he said. "For me this is a moment of utter solitude, a personal catastrophe. But the team spirit will help me to get over my disappointment."

One hopes so. It was Eamon Dunphy, the former Republic of Ireland international, who broke a sporting taboo by admitting, in his classic diary of a professional footballer *Only a Game?*, that he secretly longed for his team to lose when he was not playing.

Blanc believes he will feel no such bitterness. And while he may feel solitude, he is not alone.

Greaves, the mercurial England forward, endured similar trauma and feelings of isolation during England's triumphant march to victory in the World Cup in 1966. After playing the first three games of the tournament as centre forward, Greaves picked up an injury. Geoff Hurst came in to replace him, kept the shirt and then became the only man in history to score a hat-trick in the final as England beat Germany 4-2.

If the momentous effect on Hurst's life was obvious, no one could have foreseen what events that summer afternoon might do to Greaves. The alcoholism that blighted his life through the 1970s had many causes, but Greaves once claimed that the lingering frustration over 1966 was a factor behind his decline.

Whether Blanc is drowning his sorrows tomorrow night or trying to feel part of the toasts to success, he can console himself that his downfall did not spill over to the fortunes of his team — unlike the sorry story of David Beckham, sent off for England against Argentina in the second round of the World Cup and hurled into the stocks as a scapegoat for his country's demise.

Blanc said: "All I can be thankful for is that it didn't cost France a place in the World Cup final. If that had happened, I could never have forgiven myself." He admitted that there was sobbing as he sat disconsolately in the dressing room.

Michel Platini, the French player and one of the masterminds of this World Cup, called his country's football followers spectators rather than fans. Tomorrow night in the Stade de France, a nation will be passionate about its football as never before. One hopes that Blanc, more than anyone, can revel in the fervour. But nothing will ever ease the regret of having to sit on the sidelines and wonder what might have been.

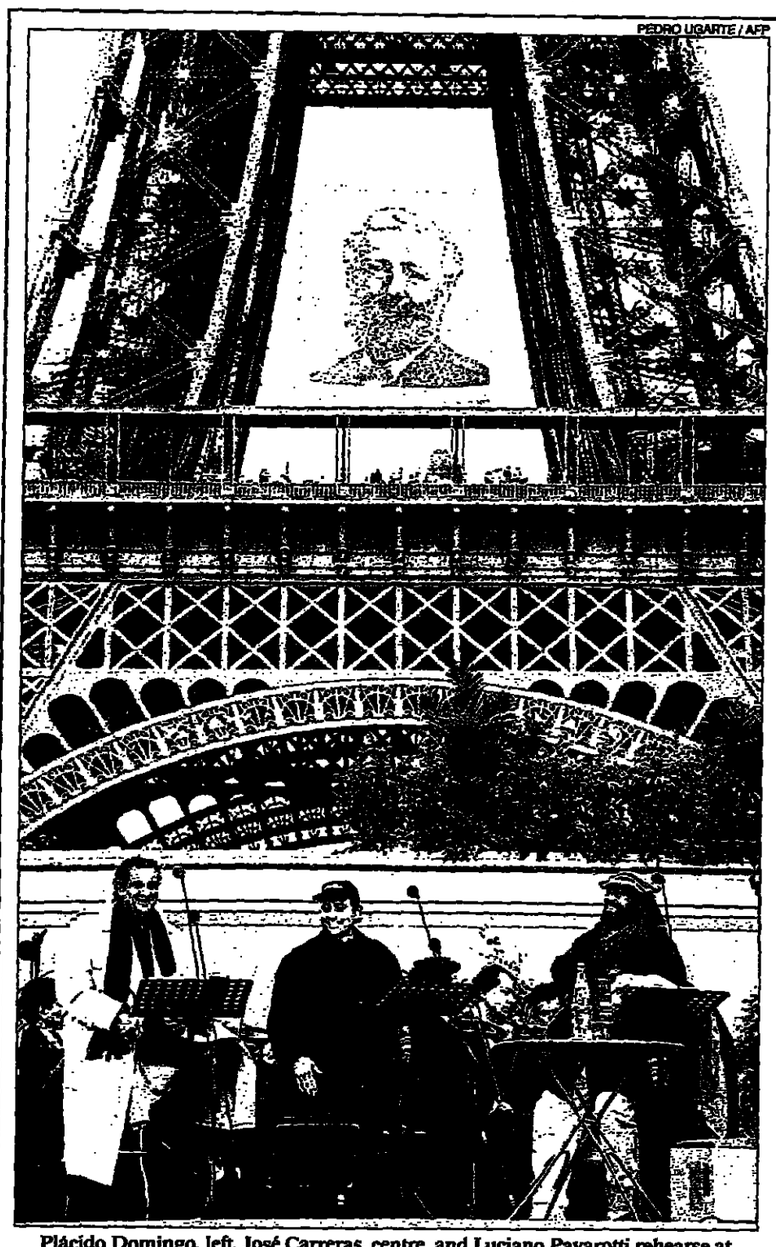
Spare a thought for the top stars who have the turf cruelly pulled from under them, writes Matt Dickinson



Laurent Blanc is sent off in the match with Croatia

Ben Macintyre, page 20
Letters, page 21
Match special, pages 31-38

PEDRO UGARTE / AFP



Plácido Domingo, left, José Carreras, centre, and Luciano Pavarotti rehearse at the Eiffel Tower before their first performance together in France last night



Towering Tenors take stage in Paris

AS DARKNESS fell over Paris last night, the world's greatest operatic trio, The Three Tenors, took the stage against the illuminated backdrop of the Eiffel Tower for a concert heralded as the most ambitious to be staged.

In making the football anthem, *You'll Never Walk Alone* a highlight of their concert, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti had picked a crowd pleaser (Damian Whitworth writes). Few other tunes in their repertoire have been recorded so often.

The song, with its rousing chorus, was the creation of Rodgers and Hammerstein for their 1945 musical, *Carousel*. It found its way on to the football terraces after Gerry and the Pacemakers recorded it in 1963. It was soon taken up by the massed choirs of the Kop at Liverpool FC.

In the 1980s the song started to be borrowed by other teams. A copy of The Three Tenors version was sent to each member of the England team.

Yard detective says French 'left in dark' over hooligans

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITH police intelligence for the orld Cup was inaccurate al left the French authoriti in the dark over hoolig movements, a Scotland ard detective said yestery.

Newmeasures to control hooligs are now being debated, included in legislation, at these could have been troduced in the lead-up to games, according to Detece Constable Steve O'Reil, who worked in the Yard's intelligence cell for Euro and wrote an MSc thesis n police operations.

Mr'Reilly said that the publiv claiming the English oration for the World Cup vs a success was nothing more than backslapping and part of a political effort to hold the 2006 tournament in Britain.

Interviewed for this week's *Police Review* magazine Mr O'Reilly, who writes on risk assessment operations and works for Special Branch, said that few of the 286 hooligans arrested ended up in court. Figures from the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) show that 11 were jailed and 18 remanded.

A further 87 were expelled from France and 99 were refused entry, but Mr O'Reilly said the NCIS did not have "appropriate intelligence" for Euro '96 and still did not. Intelligence, he said, was neither "focused nor accurate enough". He believes the French were left in ignorance over how hooligans were entering France and which ones were doing so. The French then ended up treating anyone with a bulldog tattoo as a hooligan.

☐ Briton killed: German police are investigating the death of a Briton after a fight in a Freiburg bar as he celebrated his birthday watching the Germany-Croatia match last Saturday (Tim Jones writes). Ronny Redhead, 24, from Burradon, North Tyneside, died in hospital two days after the incident.

FAMINE IN SUDAN

The situation in Sudan is worsening. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people, driven from their homes by the civil war, now face starvation.

The International Red Cross is already providing emergency aid. But it's now clear that September's harvest will be badly disrupted by the civil war and late rains. The Sudanese urgently need tools and seeds to salvage their crops and feed their children. Only your donation can provide these vital supplies.

Just £25.00 can provide enough medical aid, seeds and tools to make a real difference. Please give as much as you can. Your donation will save lives.

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Please send this coupon with your donation, to: THE BRITISH RED CROSS, FREEPOST RM 6802, LONDON, SW1X 7BR. *A donation of £250 or more is worth 40% to the Red Cross if you are a higher rate taxpayer and add a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back the tax. Please tick this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross.

BRITISH RED CROSS, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 9 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, LONDON SW1X 7EJ.

Player is jailed for fixing Asia qualifying match

FROM MICHAEL MACKEY IN HONG KONG

ONE of Hong Kong's top footballers has been jailed for a year after pleading guilty to accepting a share of a HK$200,000 (£15,000) bribe to lose a World Cup qualifying match for the territory's team.

Chan Tsz-kong, 26, and his alleged co-conspirators discussed a forthcoming game in March last year against Thailand, and came to the conclusion that Hong Kong would lose anyway. They decided to fix the result and take a bribe from a Hong Kong bookmaker.

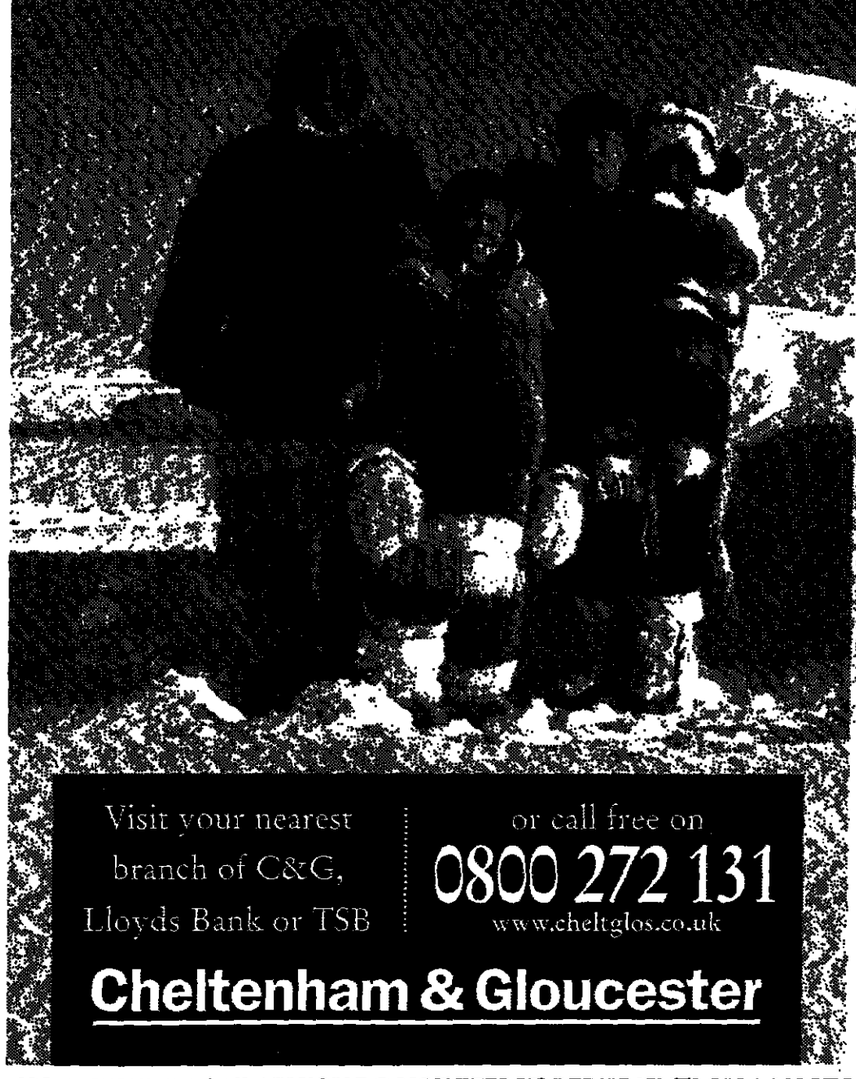
The original deal was for Hong Kong to lose 3-0, in exchange for which the conspirators would each receive HK$100,000. However, once in Bangkok the conspirators and the bookmaker decided to aim for a 2-0 defeat to allay suspicion. Hong Kong duly lost the match in the Thai capital by the agreed scoreline.

Back in Hong Kong, Chan collected the bribe, and shared it with his alleged co-conspirators. In passing sentence, John Brennan, the magistrate, said that Chan had been given the highest accolade it was possible to have for a footballer — that of being asked to represent his country. However, Chan had sold his sport, himself and his future for a few thousand dollars.

Mr Brennan added that Chan's guilty plea had weighed in his favour when sentencing had been decided.

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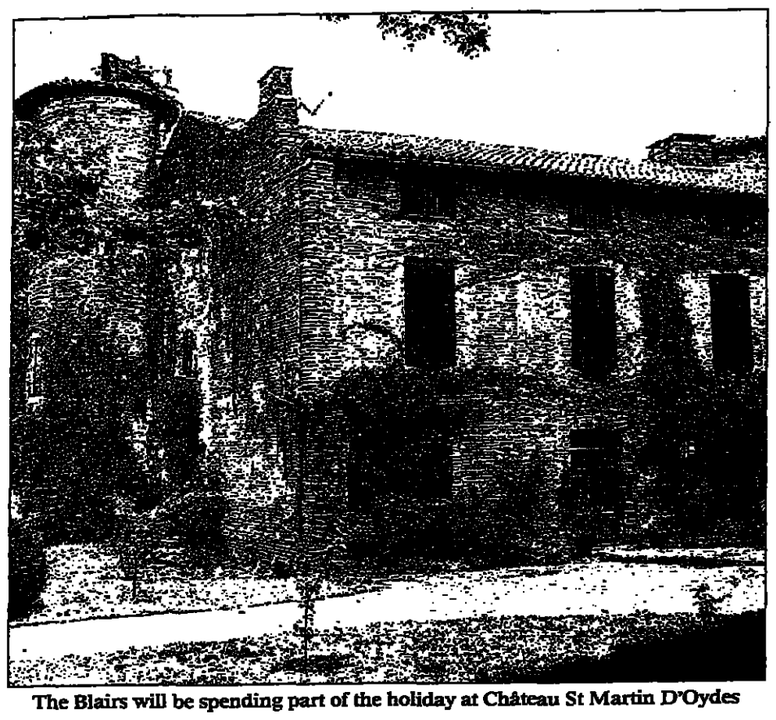
Blairs lead the way as Cabinet heads south for some rest and recreation

TONY BLAIR and many of his Cabinet colleagues will once again be taking their holidays on the Continent this summer, with France and Italy still the favourite destinations. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will however buck the trend by heading back to America for his August break.

As usual, much secrecy surrounds the destination of the Prime Minister and his family. Downing Street declined to comment, saying only that Mr Blair would be away for most of August somewhere in mainland Europe. *The Times*, having spoken to local sources, can confirm that Mr Blair, his wife, Cherie, and children, Euan, 14, Nicky, 12, and Kathryn, 10, will be returning to their usual hideaway in the South of France.

The prime ministerial family are expected to head to Château St Martin D'Oydes, 40 minutes south of Toulouse in the Ariège, in the second half of August. The 11th century chateau is owned by Sir David Keene, a family friend and a High Court judge who once worked with Ms Booth at her chambers.

Less certain is where Mr Blair will spend the first part of his holiday. For the last two years he has spent a couple of weeks at Geoffrey Robinson's lavish Villa Mucchio set in nine acres of cypress groves near San Gimignano in Tuscany.



The Blairs will be spending part of the holiday at Château St Martin D'Oydes

However, it is understood that the Prime Minister has considered eschewing the large swimming pool and the floodlit tennis court at his beleaguered Treasury Minister's villa and might instead stay elsewhere in Italy. With Mr Robinson's finances under investigation by a Commons committee, it could be thought unwise for the Prime Minister to be seen enjoying some of their fruits.

But such is Mr Blair's fondness for Tuscany that he would regret not spending any time there. "I love it," he once told an Italian newspaper. "There is so much history, culture, the weather's great, and I like the wine."

Several Labour ministers are also heading for France. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will spend some time in August there with his family. Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, will be indulging in her passion for caravanning through France with her husband, Leo. Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, will also be heading for southwest France with her family.

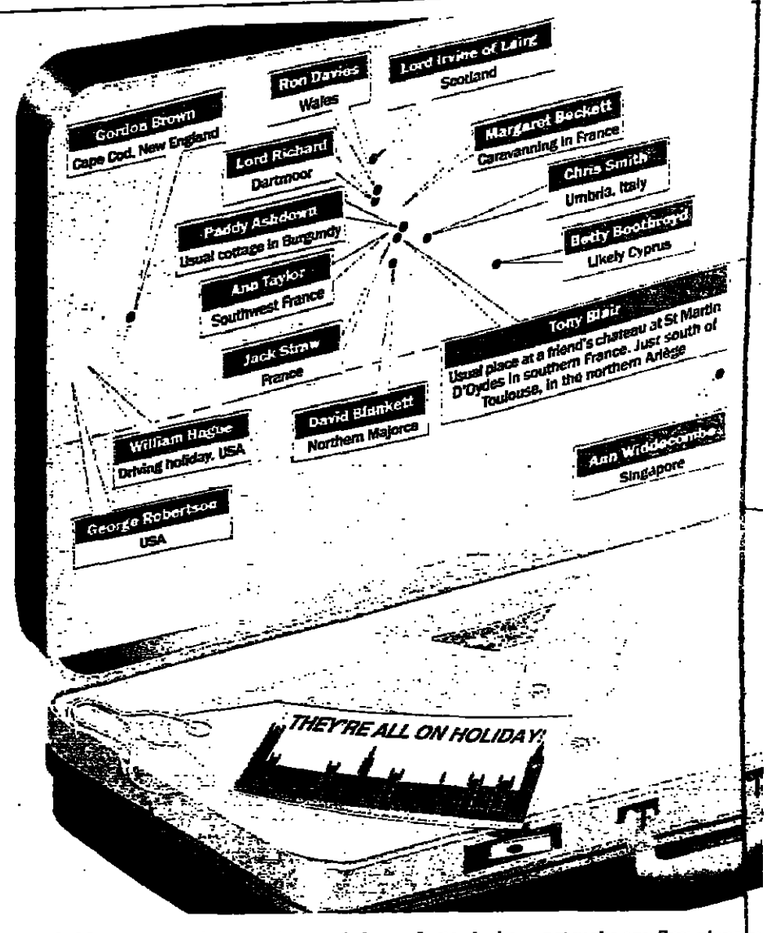
Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, will spend three weeks in August at his cottage in Burgundy, with his daughter Kate and grandson Mathias, born during last year's election campaign. Mr Ashdown, his aides said, will be relaxing in the sun when not sending them e-mails from his laptop computer.

Also heading for Europe is Robin Cook and his wife, Gaynor, for their first summer holiday as a married couple. But the precise location remains a mystery. "The Foreign Secretary will be having a self-catering holiday somewhere within the European Union," was all his aides could say.

Last year, Mr Cook's planned summer holiday to Montana with his first wife, Margaret, was abruptly cut short in the VIP lounge at Heathrow Airport. Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, called him to say that a newspaper was about to reveal his relationship with Gaynor Regan.

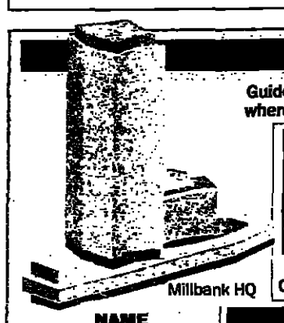
After his recent illness, William Hague's traditional rugged walks through the damp Yorkshire Dales have been ruled out. Instead, the Tory leader will jet off with his wife, Ffion, to America for a touring holiday.

Until Ann Taylor reveals when the Commons will rise for the summer break, Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, cannot make any firm plans, but Ms Boothroyd is nevertheless expected at some point to spend a few weeks at her regular suite at the Cal Beach hotel in Paphos, southern Cyprus, where she relaxes, swims and paraglides.



NEW LABOUR'S TENTACLES OF POWER

Guide to Labour's movers and shakers. Where they work now and where they came from in its Millbank HQ or elsewhere in the party


Millbank HQ


Ben Lucas


Neal Lawson


Tim Allan

Cashing in on a political earthquake – top people in demand

NAME	MOVED TO	WORKED FOR
Amas, Gill	Scope press office	Press Office
Arnold-Forster, Josh	Politics Int. (lobbying)	David Clark
Allan, Tim	BSkyB PR	Tony Blair
*Bowen, Adam	Shandwick (lobbying)	Rebuttal unit
Bryne, Colin	Shandwick	Peter Mandelson
Blagborough, Paul	Own lobbying firm	Finance dept
Blackhurst, John	NSPCC	Canvassing
Blackmore, Rachel	Shandwick	Mike O'Brien MP
Clow, Amanda	Bell Pottinger PR	Tony Blair
Conway, Sara	LLM (lobbying)	Industry Forum
Cole, Alex	AS Biss (lobbying)	Jack Straw
Cunnington, Mike	BHG marketing	Marketing
Doherty, Steve	Shandwick	Janet Anderson MP
*Draper, Derek	GPC Market Access (lobbying)	Peter Mandelson
Elsen, Richard	Ludgate (lobbying)	Rebuttal unit
Francis, Amanda	Bell Pottinger	Mo Mowlam
Fox, Dan	GPC Market Access	Tony Blair
Gibbons, Jo	World Cup 2006 bid	Press Office
Hambleby, Peter	NSPCC	Key seats
Hepplewhite, Ian	Citigate Westminster (lobbying)	Press Office
Hill, David	Bell Pottinger	Press Office
Hodges, Daniel	Road Haulage Association	Glenda Jackson
Jacobs, Ilan	LLM	Philip Gould
Lawson, Neal	LLM	Gordon Brown
Leam, David	GPC Market Access	Millbank
Lee, Mike	Westminster Strategy (lobbying)	David Blunkett
Lewis, Nicki	Halifax PR	Business unit
Lucas, Ben	LLM	Jack Straw
McDonald, Sharon	Sainsbury marketing	Marketing
McDonald, Catherine	Nacro press office	Tony Blair
Matthews, Nick	Warwick Univ.	Policy unit
Mendelsohn, Jonny	LLM	Tony Blair
Metcalfe, Peter	BNFL (lobbying)	John Battle
Melville, Abigail	LLM	Local Govt Unit
Milner, Karl	GJW (lobbying)	Gordon Brown
Moore, Jo	Westminster Strategy (lobbying)	Press Office
Moss, Ian	AS Biss	Alun Michael
*Osborn, Rex	Westminster Strategy	Political Intelligence
Page, Tim	Communications Group (lobbying)	Ian McCartney
Randi, Sally	Burson Marsteller (lobbying)	Youth Office
Richards, Ed	BBC	Gordon Brown
Dobson, Sally	FPA	Events
Russell, Justin	Audit Commission	Policy unit
Robinson, Melissa	GJW	Rebuttal unit
Smith, Lesley	Dixons PR	Tony Blair
Scanlon, Rory	Beaumark (lobbying)	Political Intelligence
Sharp, Roger	GJW	Business unit
Si-Ling	ATL	Press office
Williams, Nick	Bell Pottinger	David Clark

*recently moved on

Young guns who profited from new Labour's success

Nicholas Wood on the deluge of lucrative contracts offered by lobby firms and businesses to Millbank staff

BLISS it was that morning to be alive. Tony Blair had just won the election by a majority of more than 170 and an army of young Labour activists in Millbank knew they had just helped to deliver one of the most stunning political triumphs of modern times.

But even they were taken aback by what happened next. "The phones just rang off the hook. Just about everybody got three or four offers of a job with the private sector," says one senior former Labour insider who has since joined the private sector on a six-figure salary.

And lucrative offers they were too. Typically 25-year-olds on short-term contracts, all due to expire shortly after polling day, doubled their salaries — moving from £20,000 a year to more than £40,000. As our survey shows, at least 50 people who had worked for Labour in the run-up to the election — or who came back to its Millbank headquarters for the campaign — are now in key posts in the Westminster undergrowth or industry, commerce and charities. About 30 have been reborn as lobbyists, guiding businessmen through the political maze. But others are now high-powered figures in private industry, bringing their new Labour insights to the boardroom. Lesley Smith, who was on Tony Blair's battlebus, is now public relations chief for Sir Stanley Kalms's Dixon Group. Nicki Lewis, who worked on business sponsorship at Millbank, does the same for the Halifax.

After nearly 20 years of Tory government, commerce and industry — and their handmaidens in lobbying and public relations — had little idea about either the personalties or policies of new Labour. Perhaps even more importantly, they did not understand the culture of the Blair project.

One insider, who insists there is more to lobbying and PR than a fat contacts book, says: "Out there nobody really moved until after May 1 and then suddenly the world had changed. People woke up to the implications and started to employ people who understood the type of world that Blair was trying to create."

Yet as many Labour MPs and leading lobbyists privately concede, the seeds of the Government's fall from grace — its descent into apparent "cronyism" — were laid in the months after the election victory. Derek Draper of GPC Market Access has lost his job and his column with *The Express*. Roger Liddle of the Downing Street policy unit and a former partner of Mr Draper's is fighting to survive. Ben Lucas of LLM and Karl Milner of GJW Government Relations have found themselves accused of a political version of insider dealing. For the first time, Mr Blair has been forced squarely onto the back foot by William Hague.

But Labour insiders say the wonder is that the brash, boastful, get-rich-quick world of the teenage power-brokers had not been exposed earlier. One former top party official with impeccable new Labour connections, now a successful lobbyist, says the cash-for-access scandal was an accident waiting to happen. Many lobbying firms are small concerns turning over only around £1 million a year. "Most of these kids have never worked in a commercial company before. They are flushed with the new suit and the lunch expense account and are quite show-offy. Consequently, they do not know how to behave. They assume they have been hired for their inside knowledge.

"It is partly the fault of the companies for not training and developing these people and for giving them the impression that the only reason they are giving them a £40,000 increase is that they have a contact book of big names.

"They don't understand the subtleties of what you say and what you don't say, and that the way had changed after the Ian Greer scandal about MPs for hire and the Nolan report on clearing up sleaze. It's no wonder that they went in and messed up."

Labour MPs familiar with the lobbying world say there is no doubt that the government's image has been badly tarnished by the affair. They are scathing about the "paper clones, branding themselves Johnny-cum-Latelies" who flocked to Millbank in the run-up to the election with an eye to the main chance. One says: "People came into the party to get out of it what they could. They had no real allegiance to Labour — though I do say that of Draper — and voted to make a fast buck. But some good will come out of it. It will clip the wings of these arrogant young hangers on, benefit the Left in the NEC elections and make a lot of these young new Labour MPs more cautious."

Letters, p 21

Student politics saw start of lobbyist's flamboyant career

By Russell Jenkins

DEREK DRAPER, the lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-access row, developed his bold style as a student activist at Manchester University.

The lobbyist, who boasted he could smooth businessmen's path to government ministers, was suspended from his post as students' union Communications Officer following allegations that he threw coffee around in meetings, intimidated speakers and stayed away from votes at an National Union of Students conference. His most controversial action was to destroy 4,000 copies of a student magazine because it contained an article describing him as "arrogant and self-important".

He stood accused by his political enemies of failing to remain impartial on the outcome of elections for the union executive. He was alleged to have physically threatened one candidate and was suspended at an emergency meeting of the union executive for behaviour described by Karl Cheese, the then general secretary, as "escalating to a very unacceptable level". The executive even changed the locks on his office.

Shortly before he was suspended from his own union, he stormed into a meeting of student leaders at the University of Manchester Institute of Technology, the technical branch of the university, to complain about an article in its student newspaper, *Grip*. A leader in the newspaper had criticised staff and student leaders at Manchester University Students' Union, and accused Mr Draper himself of "seeming arrogance and self-importance".

He was said to have shouted, "withdraw this and say you are ashamed", before being escorted from the building by a security guard.

He returned shortly afterwards to soak the offending newspapers in buckets of water, an action which resulted in a civil law suit and cost Mr Draper £264 in damages and around £1,800 in costs.

Mr Draper dismissed the coffee throwing incident as little more than spilling his drink. Similarly, he claimed that accusations of intimidation reflected the boisterous nature of student politics. But he admitted to being embarrassed by the incident involving the student newspaper.

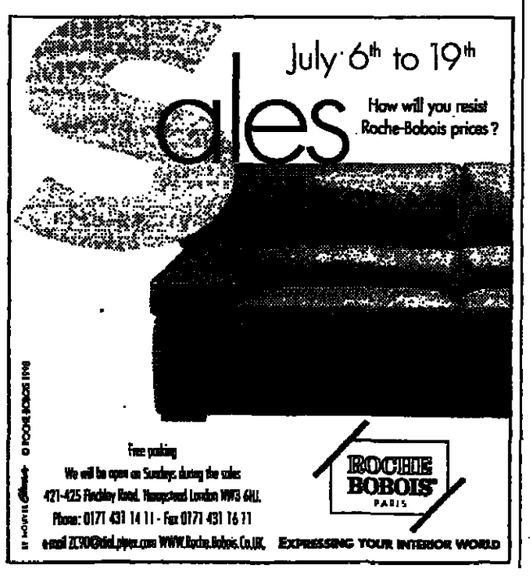
Mr Draper said: "Do I regret it? Yes. Was it serious? No. It was an early example of how I can get a bit carried away. I wished I hadn't done it when we got back into the taxi." Philippa Wilks, the student union's current Communications Officer, said: "He left part of the way through his term of office due to personal differences between him and the Union Council."

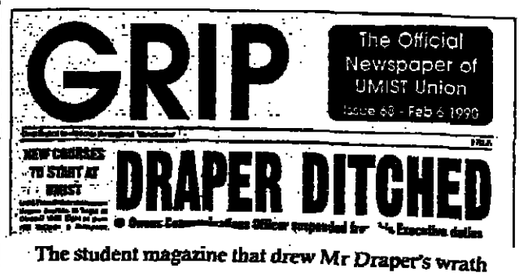
☐ Derek Draper will defend the practice of lobbying in a debate, *Hypotheticals*, moderated by Clive Anderson, to be screened tonight at 6.45pm on BBC2. In the debate, filmed several weeks before the recent allegations appeared in *The Observer*, Mr Draper says that clients sometimes prefer to pay to be introduced to ministers rather than going via their MPs.

He tells other guests in the programme: "There is a problem with this idea that the way to get through to ministers is through your MP. It is sometimes the case that companies will want to speak to ministers about matters relating to their constituency which they wouldn't want the constituency MP to know. What if the company was going to merge and it meant job losses?"

Mr Draper also reveals that he bought a table at the last Labour Party fundraising dinner and got Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, and Barbara Windsor to sit on it.







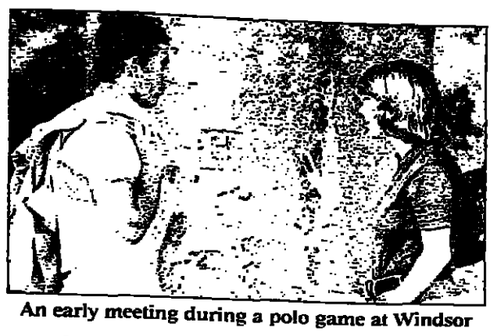
The student magazine that drew Mr Draper's wrath



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Dance to the frenzy of the tabloids



An early meeting during a polo game at Windsor



CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

Camilla Parker Bowles in 1992, at the time of the Prince and Princess of Wales's separation

News that Prince William has finally met Camilla Parker Bowles has helped both Palace and press, writes **Alan Hamilton**

In the best sparring tabloid tradition, both *The Sun* and *The Mirror* claimed a royal world exclusive on Thursday morning with their disclosure that Prince William had finaly come face to face with his father's mistress of 25 years, Camilla Parker Bowles.

The honours in fact belonged to *The Sun* for unearthing the best popular royal story of the year, although warring sheets can easily pick their rivals' plums at the midnight hour and pass them off as their own. The basic factual story occupied acres of newsprint, but so too did its ramifications.

Who leaked it? Was it all a plot devsed by Peter Mandelson? Has the Prince of Wales's strategy of winning gradual public acceptance for Mrs Parker Bowles been derailed? And why was St James's Palace so ready with a prepared public statement of admission the moment the first editions of *The Sun* arrived in rival offices?

It was, in many ways, a story waiting to happen. The Prince will be 50 in November and it would be highly improbable that, at some stage during the partying, his children and mistress did not find themselves in the same room. Better, perhaps, to get it over with now.

What is clear is that a long-standing charm offensive by the Prince of Wales to win back his public reputation has paid some dividends, although he would probably not have wished such an intensely private meeting to have become public quite so soon. His former wife has been dead less than a year, yet the very papers that fed so mercilessly off her have been surprisingly kind to him this week.

The Sun reported in some detail how the young Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles met "by sheer coincidence" on June 12 when William called unexpectedly at his father's apartment in St James's Palace for a change of clothing. His father, it was said, gave him the opportunity to avoid a meeting, but William was said to be happy for it to go ahead. Mrs Parker Bowles was said to have been extremely nervous, relieved when it was over, and in severe need of a gin and tonic.

According to the paper, there had been two further meetings since and, when Mrs Parker Bowles gets round to meeting Prince Harry, there would be a family dinner at Highgrove "to build the new relationship".

In an accompanying editorial, the paper said that, having got its scoop, it would in future respect Prince William's privacy. It added significantly: "If William can live with a Charles-Camilla relationship, maybe the people can too."

The Mirror was not so sure. The paper's veteran royal reporter, James Whitaker, now elevated to commentator, said that the meeting would have to have happened eventually and there was relief that the deed had been done. "But it's tough on the two Princes. Their mother has not been dead a year and the boys miss her terribly."

The Mirror added another dimension, claiming that Prince William had known of the existence of Mrs Parker Bowles for some time, but that Prince Harry had become aware of her existence and her position only 18 months ago.

The *Daily Mail*, which had been particularly close to Diana, Princess of Wales, said that unnamed friends of the Princess had found the meeting "extraordinarily insensitive", but that St James's Palace had gone to unusual lengths to play down the significance of the meeting. The paper added that the Prince had told the Queen a few days after the encounter.

By yesterday, conspiracy theorists were as interested in how the story got out as in the story itself. The *Mail* listed five possible sources: the Government, Buckingham Palace, the Prince's camp, Mrs Parker Bowles's camp, or an old-fashioned piece of chequebook journalism to a Palace insider.

No one knew, and *The Sun* would say only that it was a good old-fashioned scoop, obtained from a source outside the Palace. It did not stop the conspiracy theorists wondering whether it was a leak inspired by Downing Street to wipe Tony Blair's worst day of office off the front pages, what with Peter Mandelson being a friend of both Mark Bolland, the Prince of Wales's influential assistant private secretary, and of Simon Lewis, who shortly takes up the new post of Buckingham Palace spin-doctor.

Downing Street strenuously denied any involvement, but the suspicion nonetheless lingered that the whole business was evidence of a proactive new Labour public relations machine in the Palace.

What seems most likely is that *The Sun*, having been tipped off, sought confirmation from the Palace, which, taken aback, asked for publication to be delayed 24 hours so that the Prince of Wales could forewarn his elder son. The Palace then took the opportunity to consult Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. The Palace's eventual position was effectively a trade-off. Since the death of Diana, the media had behaved responsibly towards the young Princes and had not intruded on their privacy. If they confirmed the meeting as a matter of legimitate public interest, that tabloid good behaviour might continue in future. Significantly, the Palace made it known that there would be no official complaint to the PCC over the story.

If the story was indeed a leak to bolster Mrs Parker Bowles's public standing, it certainly worked with *The Sun*, which devoted its front page yesterday to a positive encouragement of the relationship. "For goodness sake, get on with it," the paper advised the heir to the throne. "You're 50 in November, Charles. The clock is ticking. Don't leave it too late to enjoy an open relationship with Camilla. The British public are more understanding than Charles thinks."

The paper went on to say that Mrs Parker Bowles was the Prince's wife in all but name, spent many days and nights in his residences and was widely known as the Lady of Highgrove.

Others were a mite less effusive. *The Mirror* commented: "Camilla will probably never be accepted by the British people as their Queen. But it would be enough for her to be accepted as Charles's partner. Particularly by his sons."

The *Daily Mail* claimed that, from the Prince of Wales's point of view, the disclosure had been far from a public relations triumph, and had left him "frustrated and upset" that a careful strategy to prepare the public to accept Mrs Parker Bowles as part of his family, culminating in a 50th birthday party she would host for him at Highgrove, was now in disarray.

"St James's Palace now fears a public backlash against the timing of the meeting, less than a year after Diana's death; it could undermine the giant strides Charles has taken to rebuild his image as a caring father," the *Mail* said. But it also suggested that the Queen and Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the young Princes' nanny, had indicated that it might be sensible for the boys to meet Mrs Parker Bowles.

All eyes will now be on the Prince's 50th birthday on November 14. An informal party at Highgrove hosted by Mrs Parker Bowles is almost certain, given that the Prince hosted a similar function for her on her 50th birthday last year. More significant would be if she were seen openly adorning the Prince's arm at the much more formal Buckingham Palace occasion.

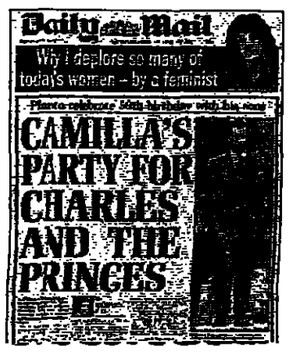
The story certainly kept the uncomfortable facts of Tony Blair's Commons mauling over accusations of cronyism off the tabloid front pages for their main editions; the broadsheets preferred to keep their eye on the political ball, and reported the meeting with due lack of excitement.

Plot or no, the disclosure of the meeting appears to have done the Prince of Wales more harm than good. To have the country's largest selling daily positively encouraging you to bring your affair out of the closet before you are too old to enjoy it must be some indication of public approval, although it is not quite in the same league as an unqualified blessing from the archbishops of the Church of England. That *imprimatur*, however, may be a little longer in coming.

One of the most significant lessons to be learnt from the whole affair is the growing power of Lord Wakeham and the Press Complaints Commission. Voluntary privacy guidelines, tightened up last year specifically to protect the young Princes, were accompanied by dire warnings from Lord Wakeham that they had better be observed. They have, almost to the letter, and the decision both to confirm the meeting, and not to make a formal complaint about it, has the distinct taste of both carrot and candy: a reward to the naughty boys of the tabloids for behaving themselves in recent months, and an incentive to continue doing so.

If the present climate continues, Lord Wakeham will in effect be the arbiter of what royal news appears in the papers and what does not. The press's voluntary code, is, in its convoluted way, working.







How the tabloids covered this week's revelations

Cornish cream of summer fiesta

It used to be a bit of road whose only purpose, given the grim security men guarding it, seemed to be to give dukes and duchesses quicker access to the National Theatre's front door. But brick has replaced the tarmacadam and the area's twin sections have been grandly renamed Theatre Square and Cottesloe Square. And, starting now, you can join the strollers and joggers, the Japanese tourists, the Americans doing books on semiotics and the commuters en route to Waterloo and see what the National is describing as its "summer fiesta", outdoors beside the Thames.

Earlier this week I drank coffee and watched a chap called Dodger chucking about firebrands. By the end of August we will have been able to experience a "sensational psychoskiffle sextet" called Cosmic Sausages, "improvised lunacy" from the Invisible Men, and the "Spurting Man in Avanti Display", among many other things.

Kneehigh Theatre, which ends a brief visit to Cottesloe Square with two performances of *Strange Cargo* today, is a Cornwall-based touring company of some standing. It impressed everyone when it brought *The King of Prussia*, Nick Darke's play about smugglers in the far southwest, to the Donmar two years ago.

Strange Cargo shows Kneehigh in a larkier mood, as suits the environment. After all, you couldn't easily sit beneath the designer eaves and newly cleaned buttresses of Denys Lasdun's concrete Oz and earnestly watch *King Lear* to the accompaniment of passing pigeons and planes. Better this exercise in Cornish *commedia*: a droll piece in which the half-masked, grimy-trousered peasants of the island of Esperanza bumble about a set begotten of a totem pole by a jungle gym, boggling at the fascist lackey sent from the mainland to suppress their fun, make them do physical jerks and destroy the plaster-and-cloth Madonna they revere.

THEATRE
Strange Cargo
National Theatre

No need to worry that you will be bewildered by the pidgin Spanish that is the main means of communication in downtown Esperanza. Myself, I had more comprehension problems with a denouement in which the show's harlequin figure, a prankster lately returned from America, is shot, then resurrected, then returned to the dead. But who cares when he, his girlfriend, his all-in-wrestler mother and his foe are played with such verve by (respectively) Giles King, Emma Rice, Bec Applebee and a fanatically twitching Jim Carey?

What these Land's End *lazzi* offer is the spirit of anarchy, rough-theatre style, and after they leave the National they will be re-offering it in Dorchester, Bristol, Stockton and Edinburgh among other places. Even without Somerset House as backdrop, *Strange Cargo* should be worth a visit.

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A Mexican wave of euphoria

Ben Macintyre on the fervour sweeping gloom out of France

Parisians flocked on to the Champs-Elysées in their countless thousands. They cheered, they wept and they kissed gendarmes, who kissed them back. They blocked out the recent past and thought only of present glory and future possibility. They were all on the same side at last. "Mixed in the immense crowd, we acclaimed a popular carnival, disorganised and magnificent," wrote Simone de Beauvoir.

This was Charles de Gaulle's triumphant march from the Arc de Triomphe to Notre-Dame on August 25, 1944, but the words might as easily apply to the delirious scenes on Wednesday night after France won a place in the World Cup final. Not since the Liberation has Paris witnessed such an unrestrained explosion of joy on the streets of the French capital.

To be sure, this was only a football match and not the end of a brutal occupation, but France's World Cup success has provoked a genuinely cathartic sense of liberation here, a self-conscious reappraisal of the national identity and a mighty collective sigh of relief as if the weight of self-doubt had been lifted, however temporarily, from French shoulders.

> Not since the Liberation of Paris has there been such delight

Many of those now celebrating most noisily knew little and cared less about football a few weeks ago, and the fundamental reasons for the Mexican wave of euphoria now sweeping France have little to do with sport. For the past five years France has been stranded in the doldrums, an Old English portmanteau word blending "dull" with "tantrum" that precisely describes the combination of boredom and bad temper that afflicted the nation.

Crippling unemployment, strikes, terrorism, corruption, a wobbling economy and uncertainty over whether France would make the grade for EMU all fused in the general mood of *morosité* (gloom) and *sinistrose* (pessimism). Politicians and journalists endlessly explored the causes of the national depression, and made everyone feel worse. But well before Thuram put his second goal in the Croatian net and France into the final, the country had begun, cautiously, to feel better about itself.

Football success did not change the national mood, but it has helpfully arrived on cue to reflect it, producing some remarkable individual performances in the country that invented *joie de vivre*, but has recently had little cause to display it. At the Stade de France on Wednesday, President Chirac (not a man much given to dancing) performed a peculiar shuffling jig of delight on live television and said "*formidable*" over and over. His Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin (a man not much given to smiling) declared "I am happy," and even looked it.

Both men have reasons to be cheerful that go beyond hosting, and perhaps even winning, the World Cup. The French economy is finally in recovery, unemployment is dropping and the Socialist administration, elected last year on the negative principle that they could not be worse than the incumbent Government, has proved surprisingly effective. Chirac and Jospin, political enemies locked in an embarrassing tango, are shooting up the popularity polls in tandem. They are even managing to make it look as if they like each other.

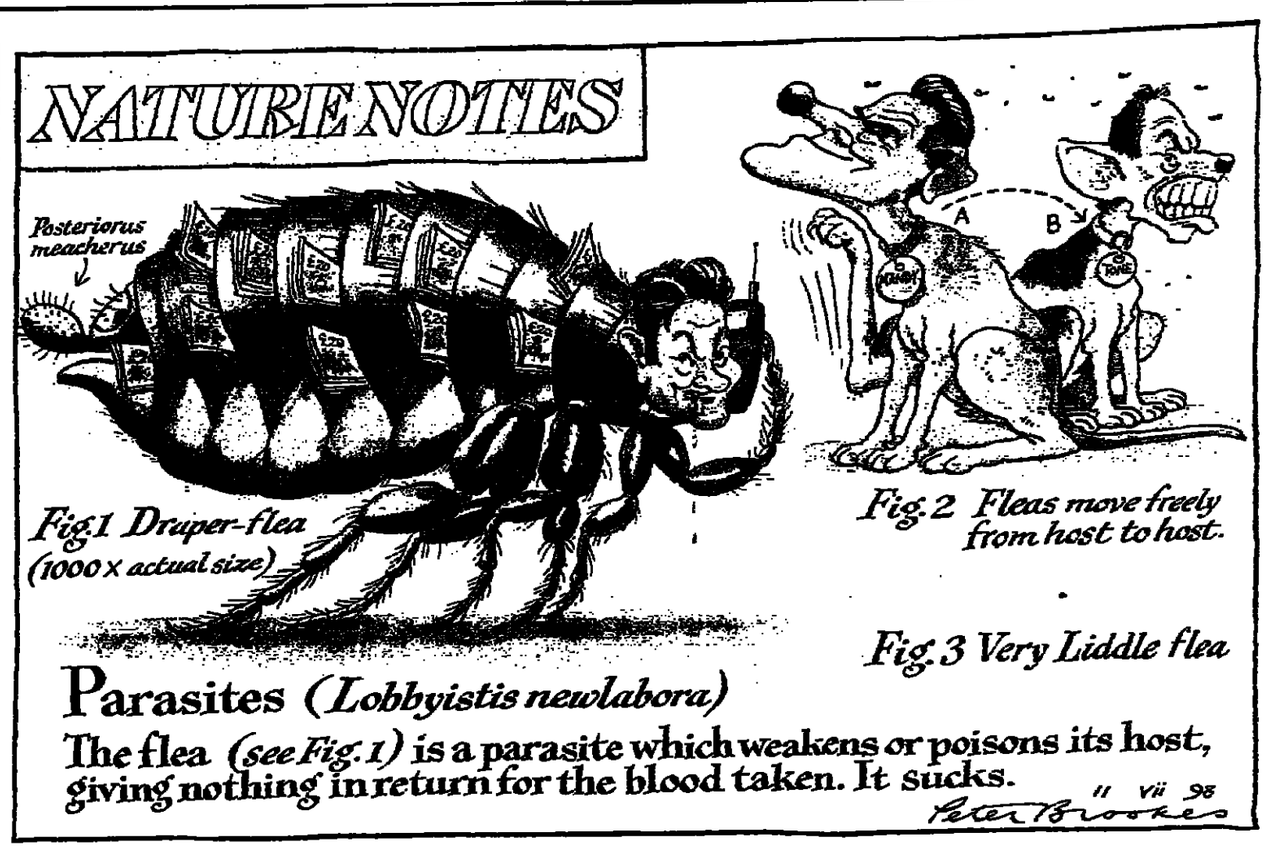
Indeed, all across France people are eagerly demonstrating how much they like each other, themselves and football. In the run-up to the World Cup, enthusiasm for the game was at best lukewarm, but in the space of a few days all that has changed.

A similar effect was discernible in 1944, when one observer noted "the considerable number of last-minute resistants, armed from head to toe and covered in cartridge-belts in the Mexican style". France is suddenly bristling with people expressing their passionate, undying but hitherto unrevealed love of football. Politicians have taken to wearing the national strip, and every luvvie is now an expert: "It's a marvellous adventure" (Gérard Depardieu); "It's a communion, a prayer" (Emmanuelle Béart); "There are moments when I am in tears" (Béatrice Dalle).

For all the gushing, France is still not particularly enthralled by football, but it is very interested in success and the game has now become an expression of national optimism, with the multiracial French team itself hailed as a symbol of tolerance. *Libération* newspaper declared: "In just one night the victory of the French team has overcome every social division."

It has, of course, done nothing of the sort, and for all the flag-waving France still faces major hurdles, including a public sector swallowing half the GDP, 12 per cent unemployment and racial tension fanned by the extreme Right. Football does not address any of this, but France's march to the final will be looked back on as the moment when "Les Bleus" helped a nation to shrug off the blues.

Everyone will say they were in the Champs-Elysées in '98 (just as 56 per cent of the Paris population subsequently claimed to have welcomed the Allies in 1944). If France wins tomorrow, the ensuing street party will surely be, as de Gaulle declared of that other celebration 54 years ago, "one of the gestures of France herself which occasionally, down the centuries, comes to illuminate our history".



Legends of the fall

Lawrence James finds a fascinating similarity between two flawed icons: Lawrence of Arabia and Princess Diana

Lawrence of Arabia and Diana, Princess of Wales, shared much in common. Each died young, killed in a road accident, and each was universally mourned. The nation's grief was more reticent in May 1934 than it was last September, but the sense of enormous potential having been wasted was the same. Both Lawrence and the Princess possessed vanity and charm in equal parts and invited or shunned attention according to mood. Neither could avoid publicity, for they had an unlimited capacity to entertain and intrigue, not least because of their willingness to disclose their inner torments and uncertainties to the world at large.

Lawrence, the intellectual, did so through his own creative writing and in correspondence with friends and biographers whom, as he intended, transmitted his words to the public. His sense of mischief impelled him to say much about himself that was contradictory or deliberately perplexing. The Princess was much more serious and direct. She revealed herself though an emotional confession as well as asides to sympathetic biographers.

Both figures were right to take care of the future. Interest in their lives shows no indication of wilting. Each has become an icon in the true sense of the word for, like St Peter rendered in medieval glass with his keys in his hand, they are immediately recognisable. It helped, of course, that both were highly photogenic and each had their distinctive props: hers a stunning wardrobe and his the robes of an Arab prince.

The outbreak of war in 1914 transformed Lawrence the archaeologist into a soldier and ultimately a national hero; his account of war, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, became a bestseller. Marriage invested the Princess with the glamour of royalty and provided an opportunity to display the compassion which lies at the heart of her present cult.

Both Lawrence and Diana have devotees who imagine that they possessed almost supernatural powers. Professor Arnold Lawrence once admitted that his elder brother had become a "religion" for some people. The same appears to be true of the cult of Diana, a development that has recently caused some unease among churchmen. And yet many who encountered the Princess in hospitals were struck by her ability to calm, reassure and reinvigorate — a late-20th century equivalent of the magic royal touch which was once believed to cure scrofula.

Lawrence's analyses of his interior distress and how he endeavoured to overcome it has also provided a sort of therapy for others similarly disturbed. This was understandable since, like so many who have undergone the experience of battle, Lawrence carried with him mental lesions that refused to heal. A similar picture of an injured psyche emerged from the Princess's version of her private life. Just as Lawrence spoke for veterans who could not reorder their lives after the war, Diana was the voice of women who endured unhappy marriages.

The cult of Lawrence had political undertones; he was a Buchanesque hero of the twilight of Empire. His friend and admirer Churchill hoped to enlist his support for the cause of rearmament and, during the Second World War, lamented that Lawrence was not at his side to help an imperilled country. Lawrence was close to becoming another Arthur, a sleeping national saviour. Likewise, the "people's Princess's" association with pop singers and dress designers has made her a symbol of "Cool Britannia", as well as the honorary priestess of those who believe that total emotional release is a key to human happiness.

> Both figures had devotees who invested them with magic power

So much for the legends, one now over 60 years old, the other still in its infancy but showing every sign of future growth. But while Lawrence and the Princess of Wales may satisfy half-hidden popular spiritual and atavistic needs, they were historical figures of considerable importance and influence. As such they must be assessed dispassionately.

For Lawrence this has proved a difficult task, and for Diana the process will be equally hard. Just what might be involved has been revealed in a new book by the American professor Fred Crawford, *Richard Aldington and Lawrence of Arabia: A Cautionary Tale*.

He has trawled the archives to uncover a compelling story of surreptitious wire-pulling, deception and ham-fisted attempts at censorship by those who believed there was only one authentic Lawrence. The protagonists were the novelist Richard Aldington, whose biography appeared in 1955, and a cabal who were appalled by its contents and wished to suppress it. Most active were Lawrence's previous biographers, the military pundit Basil Liddell Hart, Robert Graves, and Lawrence's literary executor, Professor Arnold Lawrence.

Aldington had approached his subject with an open mind and a passion for the truth. He drew heavily on independent sources and convinced himself that Lawrence was a self-admiring charlatan who had contrived his own legend with the assistance of toadies who had perpetuated his falsehoods for their own profit. The outcome was a brutal, unforgiving act of iconoclasm against a patriot who had been compared to Sir Francis Drake.

Lawrence's defenders struck back, led by Liddell Hart. Aldington's publishers, Collins, had their arms twisted; proofs were obtained covertly; and a repudiation of the allegations was hastily prepared for distribution among potential reviewers. Churchill's assistance was vainly invoked, and there were hysterical allegations that the assault was inspired by communists. After all, Aldington insisted that Lawrence was typical of his age and class, both of which he found lacking in honesty and humanity.

The campaign was awry. The controversy boosted sales and some reviewers detected a hint of truth in what Aldington was saying, although repelled by his tone. Some of his former brothers-in-arms came forward and expressed their misgivings about his version of events and the part he had played in them. They had stayed silent, because, as Allenby, Lawrence's commanding officer, had once observed in private, the legend was too strong to be gainsaid. Aldington had bruised his target, even though he had mistaken Lawrence's tendency to embroider truth as evidence of compulsive lying.

More rumpuses followed as Lawrence's champions attempted to preserve his image from further blemishes, often by using control over copyright as a censor's blue pencil. Arnold Lawrence was discomposed by his brother's portrayal in David Lean's film *Lawrence of Arabia*. Its producer, Sam Spiegel, accused him of wishing "to preserve the Lawrence of Arabia legend in Victorian cleanliness". Once, the professor intervened to ban a book by an author whom he had previously endorsed as a reliable eyewitness. He could not forestall the revelation in 1968 of Lawrence of Arabia's addiction to ritual chastisement, although he did everything in his power to deflect any suggestion that it was an indication of homosexuality, something that Aldington had hinted at.

What does all this imply for the future of Diana's historical reputation? If what happened to Lawrence's is anything to go by all the ingredients are in place for many rows. Her family and benevolent biographers would certainly defend an orthodoxy which they have helped to create. Any challenge to the popular perception of the Princess would provoke the indignation of those who cherish the causes with which she is popularly identified.

Nonetheless, the biographical revisionism which Aldington started has become embedded in our approach to great men and women. By probing complex motives and stripping away layers of blarney it bursts legends, which is why revisionist historians are sometimes accused of destroying much that comforts and inspires. And yet the post-Aldington Lawrence, with all his flaws and strange preoccupations exposed, is an infinitely more interesting human being than the Galahad after whom Boy Scout troops were named.

The author's biography of T. E. Lawrence, The Golden Warrior, *is published by Abacus.*
Simon Jenkins is away.

Weight of the nation

Nina Khrushcheva explains why fat is a regional concept

Are you obese? Be prepared to answer this question if you visit America this summer. A recent survey has given a freshlease of life to one of the nation's oldest obsessions. According to new guidelines presented by the National Institute of Health, 56 per cent of Americans are overweight.

I was brought up under a peculiar Russian regime in which everything native was regarded as bad, despite Communist propaganda — or maybe just because of it — and everything Western was a model to follow. Referring to *Elle* or *Vogue*, although only indirectly since officially hese magazines were banned in the Soviet Union, every woman knew what she was supposed to weigh. And although we were never able to master the ideal, at least we were aware of our limitations, embarrassed by our imperfections and envious of those who were more slender. So having grown up believing in the perfection of a Western world where it was simple to be as svelte as a supermodel, I was gravely disappointed when I came to America.

Of course, like everything else in America, fatness is a regional concept. The inhabitants of the Upper East Side in Manhattan look like unfortunate victims of some famine, while the further one travels up towards Harlem, the smaller the incomes and the larger the size of clothes. But I haven't been able to help noticing how, in general, Americans grow fatter every year.

There is nothing novel in pointing out the contradictions of American capitalism. My grandfather, Nikita Khrushchev, who never believed in the superiority of the West, would have been quite unsurprised. But to me what seems striking is that the more obsessed America becomes with health foods and purist lifestyles, the fatter the population grows. Since 1976, the use of low-fat products has increased from 19 to 76 per cent. Over the same period, the body mass index of overweight people has increased by 33 per cent. At the same time obesity has come to be seen as a respectable illness, like nephritis or leukaemia, not a simple lack of self-discipline. Typically, in this land of easy solutions, fatness is just another ailment one can take a pill for, just as one does for colds or hypertension. And like other diseases, extra pounds are conveniently explained away by such causes as lactose intolerance, hypoglycemia or simply "the fatness gene".

Once the cause has been diagnosed the dress code is established too. Accustomed to Russian women wearing dark shapeless garments, I was surprised to see their American counterparts clad in little stretchy T-shirts and snug leggings. People are claiming yet another freedom — their right to be fat. This freedom often — unfortunately — comes with a lack of social status. In America fatness is a sign of misery, which makes for another interesting contrast with Russia, where obesity is not an index of poverty.

On the contrary, to be corpulent in Russia is a sign of happiness. It comes with position. "One day I'll go back to Russia and marry a fat banker," I sometimes joke. "Why fat?" my friends exclaim. "You can marry a thin banker. Bankers are usually thin." In America bankers are thin. It is a matter of status. In Russia they are fat. This is a matter of status too.

The author is a researcher in historical studies at Princeton.

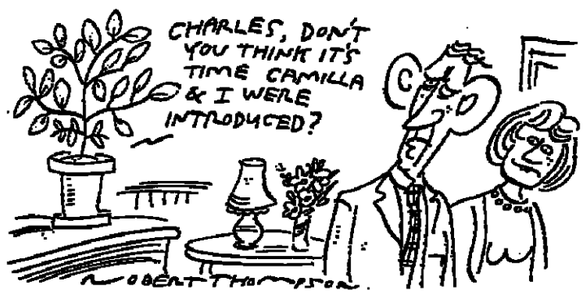
French leaves

BUTLER wars. Lord Rothermere's gentleman's gentleman has been forced to take his silver-polishing skills elsewhere because the good lord "hardly ever turns up" to his chairman's desk at Associated Newspapers. William French, who served his master for seven years at his Kensington lair, is tipped to take his trouser-press to Brocket Hall, the ancestoral pad of that old jailbird Lord Brocket, soon to be let out of prison.



French, head butler for the chairman's quarters on the sixth floor, became a spare fork: Rothermere (left) spends much time abroad, and when in town favours Boodle's and the Beefsteak. "He has been passed to us because his job at Associated had ceased to exist," says a Brocket insider, confirming that French had been shortlisted to be second butler under Alan Davidson-Lamb.

French will find Brocket jollier. In the master's absence — Brocket (right), was jailed for fraud involving £4.5 million worth of Ferraris, so has more recently been earning £6.50 a week as a dustman at Ford Open Prison — the hall has been spruced up. Happily the billiard room, where Lord Palmerston breathed his last after coupling with a maid, remains. I hope Vere's bean-counters gained permission to oust his butler: it just doesn't pay to anger one's proprietor.



DIARY

JASPER GERARD

● *A BALLROOM in Belgravia on a fine summer evening. Gail Goulandris is throwing a cocktail party to celebrate the success of her fashion company, Gail Murray. Sophie Rhys-Jones smooths around the throng, drumming up business for her PR outfit.*

In walks Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, younger brother of the Duke of Marlborough. He is greeted by Prince Mangal Kapoor, bash organiser. "I have to warn you that Jane is right behind you," says the Prince. Jane is Spencer-Churchill's estranged wife. Cue: exit Charles, stage left. Lucky, methinks, that those gossip-column Johnnies had not been invited. They might have made hay from this slight drama.

Taking cover

SIMILARLY awkward scenes marked The Art Party at the Serpentine Gallery, held in aid of the homeless and graced by those two darlings Elle Macpherson and Peter Mandelson. Paul Johnson, the polemicist, made the speech (he was the next choice after Sean Connery and Stephen Fry), but Brian Sewell, the art critic, arrived late and failed to spot him. He has described a recent exhibition of Johnson's paintings as "a folly to match George Michael's public masturbation and the murder of Mozart's arias by Florence Foster Jenkins". *Ouch.*

So when I gently pointed Johnson out to Sewell, the stern critic trembled: "Oh my God, I thought I recognised the face," and threw himself behind a tree. "What on earth are you doing?" asked a puzzled onlooker. "Hiding."

● *THE Chinese walls between Roger Liddle and Matthew Oakeshott, the neighbour looking after his shares in Prima Europe, have already broken down. I gather that they have removed their garden fences, so now they can gaze admiringly at each other's hyacinths.*



Wrong circle

I FEAR the lobbying outfit accused of Labour "cronyism" has taken its rebuttal to extremes. I have acquired its CD-Rom, which tempts me with "a sample of the resources available to GPC consultants" and offers me "direct access". But when I try to access a few old cronies, such as Peter and Roger, I find myself immersed in a racist Internet site of a group called "White Nationalist". GPC says this is "a service to users" but it does not "endorse these sites". Fine.

● *IMPORTANT news: Britt Ekland (left) is returning from LA to revive her stage career. Her new play?* See How They Run, *at the Pier Theatre, Bournemouth.*

Vain conquest

NORMAN LAMONT's last chance has gone. Stormin' Norman has been seeking the Tory nomination for a Euro seat. The last round of selections are today and I gather he has not made a shortlist. No such trouble for Sarah Biffen, wife of the delightful John: she is hot favourite for the East Midlands.

● *AMONG Jack Straw's Desert Island Discs?* The Verve, *chosen with the help of his kids. The group's big hit?* The Drugs Don't Work. *Just so.*



WOULD the last exponent of "Cool Britannia" to leave Britain please turn out the light before hot-footing it out of Blighty? Honor Fraser, whose high cheekbones have wowed Europe's catwalks, has been scouting the plains of America. Her boyfriend is luring her to LA, where he hopes to develop a film career.

The 24-year-old sister of Lord Lovat has enjoyed a wild, coast-to-coast drive via Route 66, during which she was pulled over by a cop in Utah after a 100mph dash to watch Scotland play Morocco on TV, and enjoyed a paddle in the pool at Graceland.

"It is impossible to explain to a policeman who isn't sure if he has heard of soccer, how important it is that he lets us continue. But in emergency we found a way," she says.

Meanwhile, her model colleague Naomi Campbell is in France for tomorrow's World Cup final at the Stade de France. Yves Saint Laurent has hired 300 models for a £3 million pre-game show produced by ABC, desperate to interest American viewers. The models, all wearing non-heeled shoes to protect the lush turf, will be cheered by Damon Albarn of Blur, to confirm France's opinion that Britain has become a "lad" culture.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Paxman waits for the news on his future

WANTED: A PORTFOLIO

Mandelson needs to be given a proper job

All big political events have to be seen in part through the prism of personalities: this week has been a particularly bad one for the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson. Of the two men at the centre of the lobbying scandal, one is his close protégé, the other his co-author and ally in No 10. His rivals have noted these associations with glee. But what the affair has brought to light is not just the closeness between certain people in and out of Government; it is also a cast of mind, a Mandelsonian view of the world.

Most attention has focused on the offer by Roger Liddle, of the No 10 policy unit, to join forces with the lobbyist Derek Draper in helping to fix meetings for Mr Draper's putative client. But there was another confidential, whispered exchange reported in *The Observer* which could instead have come straight out of Mr Mandelson's mouth. "There is a Circle," Mr Liddle confided, "and Derek is part of the Circle. And anyone who says he isn't is an Enemy."

This combination of exclusivity, secrecy, conspiracy and implied intimidation are the stock in trade of the Minister without Portfolio. Not only does he love being at the centre of power; he relishes others being at the margins. Colleagues are divided into allies and enemies. Plots are devised to boost the former and undermine the latter. Mr Mandelson enjoys sowing dissension in a Government that is already riddled with feuds. And he takes obvious pride in being closer to the heart of government, despite being out of the Cabinet, than most of his more senior colleagues.

None of this would matter very much if Tony Blair were not so close to him. Mr Mandelson is a trusted confidant on whom the Prime Minister relies heavily for tactical advice. To that extent, he is one of the public faces of the Prime Minister. Yet Mr Blair is a politician who deals straight. To have as his henchman a colleague who would be flattered to be described as a modern-day Machiavelli is not just bad for Mr Blair's image; it is potentially corrupting to a Prime Minister who wants to be "purer than pure".

In his forthcoming reshuffle, Mr Blair has two choices. He could give Mr Mandelson the Cabinet post in charge of the newly strengthened Cabinet Office. In that role, he would liaise with departmental ministers, initiate "joined-up" policies, and generally act as the Prime Minister's "enforcer" in Whitehall. Or Mr Blair could give Mr Mandelson a spending department to run.

The Minister without Portfolio has recently been telling colleagues that he wants his own department. Perhaps he is uncertain about his chances of winning the Cabinet Office job that he himself designed. He ought not to worry about that. His own interests, the Prime Minister's and those of the whole Government would be served by giving him a spell out of Downing Street.

Mr Mandelson is a highly able politician with a good mind and Blairite instincts. But in the Cabinet Office role, he would exacerbate the tensions within the upper echelons of government. At least four senior ministers — Gordon Brown, John Prescott, Robin Cook and David Blunkett — would probably refuse to allow him to act as an intermediary or to dictate to them. They would appeal over his head to Mr Blair. Far from finding himself with a strengthened centre, the Prime Minister would watch it fragment before his eyes.

Instead, that job should go a bright, up-and-coming Blairite, such as Stephen Byers or Alan Milburn, more emollient and less arrogant than Mr Mandelson. The Minister should be given a Portfolio. To be respected not as a courtier but as a politician in his own right, he needs to prove that he can run a department. And it will be a sign of the Prime Minister's political maturity that he can govern without this adviser at his side.

DIANA'S BILL

A moral crusade and a potential military hazard

The Anti-Personnel Mines Bill passed all its Commons stages in under five hours yesterday, throwing a curious light on the previous insistence of government business managers that it was impossible to make time for the measure in this parliamentary session. Rarely has populism so clearly dictated policy, or symbolism taken such precedence over care in legislative drafting. It is only ten days since Tony Blair chose what would have been the 37th birthday of Diana, Princess of Wales, to announce that it would after all be rushed through, and eight since the Bill itself was published. The third reading went through without a vote; the only discord came from the Opposition benches, where the Tories and Liberal Democrats, to their no great credit, were set on demonstrating that in the matter of landmines, they could out-Caesar Caesar.

Britain will now be in position to ratify the Ottawa Convention before the August 31 anniversary of the Princess's death. To politicians terrified of being thought to be dragging their heels in a matter close to her heart, this may have been all that mattered. But the convention has no chance in the near future of translating into a global ban, given the long list of key countries, including the United States as well as Russia and China, that have declined to participate. Since these weapons will thus continue to be in widespread use, consideration for the safety of British troops ought to have put a premium on meticulous drafting.

British ratification will inescapably increase the risks to the Armed Forces in some defensive combat roles. Since they will still need weaponry that will do the job of anti-personnel mines in battle, one consequence of this ban could be greater dependence not just on air-blast bombs, but on booby-traps which can be as indiscriminate, last as long and be harder to defuse than modern mines. There are other problems. Weapons such as the air-launched JP233 "runway denial" bombs used by the RAF on Iraqi airfields in the Gulf War will, for example, be outlawed. Troops will not be able to plant deactivatable mines to protect temporary positions, before removing them for re-use. Yet anti-tank devices, which are more indiscriminate and are still "victim-activated", are not banned. This makes military sense; but it should caution the Government against extravagant moral claims for this Bill.

It is not even as though there were any military urgency about passing this legislation. In practice, Britain has neither produced nor exported landmines for 16 years, and always maps those mines it has deployed. Far more urgent is the clearance of existing minefields; Britain has doubled its demining budget to £10 million a year — the same as the estimated cost of the proposed Diana memorial garden — but that is a mere fraction of the money required. In theory, British ratification will put the Government in a stronger position to persuade other countries to sign; in practice, American concerns about the Korean demilitarised zone will not be swayed by the signature even of so close an ally. Nor does China, whose mass-produced 72A mines find ready buyers at £2 each, show any sign of abandoning a lucrative world market which includes guerrilla movements beyond the reach of an intergovernmental treaty.

All British subjects, whether in the Services or in private military companies and wherever they are, will face 14-year jail sentences under the Act not just for laying mines but for assisting anyone else to do so. The moral impetus behind the convention is the suffering that these weapons inflict on civilians, often years after fighting has ended. But the partial nature of the Ottawa accord makes it imperative to safeguard British troops from the most obvious hazards arising from its inconsistencies.



BOOKS DO PASS A JOURNEY

Leaves on the line might even speed the trains

The commuter book is about to arrive at a station platform near you. It will be printed on a single sheet of paper and folded like a map. It will fit into a slot-machine. Its words may be fact or fiction, classics or modern. The minibook, smaller than a chequebook, will be colour-coded according to its category: red might signal crime and blue romance. Each commuter book should take less than an hour to read, an average daily shuttle for an average commuter. It will be portable, convenient, cheap, disposable and a good read for the smallest pocket.

The commuter book is the brainchild of Alexander Waugh, the son and grandson of novelists and literary personages. Evelyn might not have approved of his grandson's venture. He was not famed for his love of convenience culture. In *Decline and Fall* a schoolmaster offers his class the prize of half a crown for the *longest* essay on "self-indulgence", irrespective of any possible merit.

There may be curmudgeons still alive who will turn their noses up and their thumbs down for minibooks. Fie on them! Reading is man's greatest achievement and pleasure. But it can be enjoyed at many levels and in many conditions. There is an honourable place for the book that is designed to be read in such adverse conditions as strap-hanging. Very few merit reading from cover to cover, with parentheses, excursions and all the glosses. Skipping is a sophisticated art: the short story is a genre at which the British excel. Conan Doyle and Dickens made their names from the serialised publication of instalments that could be read on a journey of moderate length.

Massed shelves groaning under many volumes, even if they are paperbacks, can be discouraging to even the most discriminating readers. A short story by Balzac can lose its charm if it is part of a massive tome. Originally it was the soundbite publication that introduced so many millions to authors such as Balzac and Gibbon, who wrote "damned, thick, square books". The Greek poet Callimachus said that "a big book is a big evil". But then he was also the librarian of Alexandria and may have been grumbling over his great catalogue. As a writer, Callimachus was capable of writing multi-volumed big books as well as epigrams. And they were meant to be sipped and tasted as well as devoured from preface to colophon.

So the commuter book is an opportunity to broaden one's reading, not a dumbing down or a vulgarisation of a sacred manuscript. Commuters can become those who spend their life in reading to and from their spouse, people who read and take a train, and then ride back to read again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Role of lobbyists and civil servants

From the Chief Executive of The Association of Consulting Engineers

Sir, As a gamekeeper turned poacher, I wholeheartedly support Mark Boleat's comments (letter, July 8) about political lobbyists.

During my time as a minister, I took the view that, within reason, I should always personally answer letters from representative groups and, if required, meet them.

Like the Association of British Insurers, we do not use lobbyists. In general we find that senior civil servants are perfectly happy to meet our members and hear their views. The Minister for Construction, Nick Raynsford, like his Conservative predecessor, Robert Jones, is always willing to meet groups from the industry.

Alas, our experience with the Treasury is the reverse. In the Budget the Chancellor abolished the foreign earnings deductions. The announcement was hidden in the small print. It was clear that not only was the construction industry not consulted, nor was the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) or the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). We wrote to the Chancellor on April 2. His reply came on June 5, three days after the Finance Bill committee had considered the matter. It is this lack of response to legitimate representation which creates a market for hired intermediaries to operate.

Lobbyists have a valuable role to play in explaining to clients how the system works and advising them on how best to present their case. What they should not become, in a democratic society, are ministerial door openers.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BENNETT
(Conservative MP for Pembroke, 1987-92),
Chief Executive, The Association of Consulting Engineers,
Alliance House,
12 Caxton Street, SW1H 0QL.
July 9.

From Lord Kennet

Sir, The Director-General of the Association of British Insurers writes: "The impression has been given that policy-making is confined to small groups, with even the Civil Service being bypassed."

There is much truth in this. When the Labour Government came in, they found a Civil Service distorted and demoralised by the Thatcher-Major years during which most of those not ideologically committed to private sectorism were forced out or sidetracked.

The process of reintegrating and rebalancing the Civil Service is still far from complete. When it is, if it ever is, then it will be easier for any open-minded government to dispense with the present mass of special advisers, think-tanks, focus groups, etc, and return to a proper Civil Service tradition.

The risk otherwise is that, like in the United States, we will become a non-voting pseudo-democracy, where explosively increasing lobby-funding determines first who is elected, then what policies they support.

In the last presidential election fewer than 50 per cent of voters voted; in the congressional election that gave us the Gingrich revolution, fewer than 40 per cent did.

Yours etc,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords.
July 8.

From Mr Robert Goddard

Sir, When will the modern political lexicon be updated to include "media-ocracy": governance by spin, focus group and lobbyist?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT GODDARD,
1 Priest Thorn,
Fifehead Neville,
Sturminster Newton DT10 2AQ.
rgoddard@bournemouth.ac.uk
July 10.

Change to LEA influence and funding in schools Bill

From the Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment

Sir, Mr Sean Williams (letter, July 8) is simply wrong in his claims about the School Standards and Framework Bill currently being debated by Parliament. As well as introducing education action zones, our Bill tackles failing LEAs, increases parent governors and will lead to much greater financial delegation for schools.

Mr Williams claims that where church schools and LEAs are in dispute about admissions policies the only appeal is to the adjudicator. He is wrong.

The Secretary of State agreed with the Churches that he — not the adjudicator — will decide admissions disputes over religious issues. That is what the Bill says and that is what will happen. The provisions in the Bill relating to church schools have been welcomed by the Churches and this was confirmed recently by Mr John Hall, General Secretary of the Church of England Board of Education (letter, June 24).

Mr Williams also claims that LEAs will be able to delegate less of the schools budget than at present under our fair-funding proposals. This is nonsense. LEAs will have to delegate funds to provide the functions for which schools currently have responsibility. In addition, responsibility for school meals, building repairs and maintenance, management support, many curriculum and advisory services and supply cover will be delegated. That is broadly similar to 100 per cent delegation under the existing system, but with a much more transparent division of responsibilities. Schools and LEAs will know exactly where they stand. Our proposals have been welcomed by the National Association of Head Teachers and by the grant-maintained schools representative body.

Finally, Mr Williams says that schools will have less power to recruit teachers. Again he is wrong. With delegation, that is a matter for heads and governors. .

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BYERS,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1P 3BT.
July 8.

From Lord Rix, Chairman of Mencap

Sir, I would like to stand up on my cross bench and put in a good word for the Government, following the letter from Mr Sean Williams.

Mencap, a charity for people with learning disabilities, along with other charities such as Scope and Barnardo's, is part of the Special Education Consortium. We are delighted that in some key areas of the Bill the Government has listened to us and, as a result, has put forward specific amendments and recommendations for the benefit of children with special educational needs — about 20 per cent of the school population.

Yours etc,
BRIAN RIX,
Chairman, Mencap,
Mencap National Centre,
123 Golden Lane, EC1Y 0RT.
July 9.

From Mr Roger Sheffield and others

Sir, The Government has given the clear impression that, although it will abolish grant-maintained status, it does not wish to damage the schools concerned and indeed would like to extend to others the benefits enjoyed by grant-maintained schools. Ministers have emphasised that "standards matter more than structures" and that "intervention will be in inverse proportion to success".

However, the School Standards and Framework Bill is largely concerned with structural changes and provides for unprecedented intervention by the Secretary of State, local authorities, adjudicators and various committees.

The Bill signals a massive increase in centralisation, regulation and prescription and requires unwieldy administrative systems and bureaucratic structures. These will drastically curtail opportunities for good schools to maintain the high standards that they have attained in recent years.

Grant-maintained schools have, by any measurement, been an enormous success; they have done better in virtually every area of educational achievement. However, their existence has also brought great benefits to non-GM schools, for it broke the monopoly that local education authorities had for decades (and are to be given again). LEAs had to reckon with the possibility of schools leaving their control and old orthodoxies and practices were thus challenged and changed.

As head teachers of grant-maintained schools of every kind, we believe that the independence which has been vital to our success is seriously at risk. The proposed legislation could seriously damage some of the country's best schools.

Yours etc,
ROGER SHEFFIELD
(Langley Park School for Boys, Beckenham),
MICHAEL BELL
(The Bluecoat School, Liverpool),
BRIAN JONES
(Archbishop Tenison's School, SE11),
MARTYN MORRIS
(Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School),
MURIEL RYDING
(Baines School, Poulton-le-Fylde),
BRIAN SHERRATT
(Great Barr School, Birmingham),
c/o Langley Park School for Boys, Langley Park, Beckenham BR3 3BP.
July 8.

Srebrenica crimes

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Worthing West (Conservative), and others

Sir, This Saturday marks the third anniversary of the capture of the former United Nations "safe area" of Srebrenica by Bosnian Serb forces in 1995. On November 16, 1995, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague indicted Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic for genocide, crimes against humanity, and violations of the laws of war in connection with the events which followed Srebrenica's capture.

Today Karadzic and Mladic still remain at large. More than 6,000 missing persons from Srebrenica remain unaccounted for — many of them almost certainly deliberately killed and buried in mass graves awaiting excavation.

Every day that the Stabilisation Force (Sfor) fails to carry out its obligations sends an encouraging signal to would-be war criminals in other parts of the world like Kosovo where conflict has broken out.

The arrest of people indicted for war crimes in other parts of the former Yugoslavia today would make a powerful statement to all parties involved in the conflict in Kosovo that there can be no impunity for those who violate the most basic principles of human rights and humanitarian law.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
DENIS HEALEY,
DAVID STEEL,
Palace of Westminster.
July 10.

Penalty shoot-outs

From Mr Robert Hargreaves

Sir, Some sporting contests are decided by independent judges, who hold up cards at the end of the event indicating a score of, for example, 1 to 9. It works well for several sports at the Olympics; why not use it at the end of a drawn cup-tie in football? Judges could take account of tactics, skill and sportsmanship. A resulting win "on points" would surely be preferable to the penalty shoot-out (letters, July 10).

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HARGREAVES,
Backfield Place,
Rectory Lane, Winchelsea,
East Sussex TN36 4AB.
July 10.

At ease

From Mr Robert Neave

Sir, Even though I have never visited my local "Leisure Center" I seem to be able to switch off after work, relax, and enjoy myself.

Should I see a doctor?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT NEAVE,
Myrtle Cottage,
Cucklington,
Somerset BA9 9QH.
July 8.

Not spilt out

From Mrs Nicholas Bailey

Sir, While sharing wholeheartedly Mr Paul Webb's interest (letter, July 7) in the further adventures of the chap from Colchester, surely no man wearing baked beans in his wellington boots could, even in these egalitarian times, be called a "gentleman".

But perhaps this question should be addressed to your columnist, Mr John Morgan (Modern Manners, Weekend), thanks to whom Saturday's *Times* in this house has been declared the "Most Entertaining Read of the Week".

Yours faithfully,
ANN BAILEY,
Woodside, Hambledon,
Hampshire PO7 4SA.
July 7.

From Mrs Jane Marston

Sir, On February 1 this year my children raised over £300 for the RSPCA by walking around Talkin Tarn, near Brampton, Cumbria, with four friends with their wellingtons filled with baked beans.

The reason for the baked beans? "Anyone can do a custard walk."

Perhaps the Colchester gentleman was also raising money for charity?

Yours sincerely,
JANE MARSTON,
The Barn, Faugh,
Carlisle, CA4 9EG.
July 8.

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I remember some years ago reading about a driver in Scandinavia who, when stopped by the police for erratic driving, was found to be not only over the limit, but also wearing ice-skates.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2DW.
July 8.

Critics of Orangemen

From Major J. E. J. Lloyd, RM

Sir, You appear to be receiving large numbers of letters (July 4, 7 and 9) expressing frustration, even incredulity, at the behaviour of the Ulster Orangemen. When my company was injected into Belfast in 1969 our first question when we saw the shattered streets was, "Why"?

The only answer we got was: "You people don't understand." This was repeated many times by different people of the Protestant persuasion. It seemed to us, sitting between the Shankill and the Falls roads with burnt-out Catholic homes behind us, that we had landed in the midst of a frozen mindset, and that it was the Orangemen who had missed the point, not us.

Yours,
JOHN E. J. LLOYD,
Little Charlton,
Charlton Marshall,
Dorset DT11 9NW.
famlloyd@aol.com
July 9.

From Mrs J. K. Yapp

Sir, The derisory references, in articles and letters, to the Orangemen's clothes and bowler hats are shallow and mean. Orangemen go to church in their Sunday best, as many older English people still do.

We do not expect to ridicule Sikhs wearing turbans, Jews in skullcaps, Muslim women in headscarves, and not even perhaps the four figures, two of each sex, in full-length dresses at the Church of England Synod (photograph, July 8).

The vast majority of Ulster Protestants, including Orangemen, are amongst the most sober, law-abiding and loyal people in the United Kingdom. They do not merit the sanctimonious criticism of Libby Purves (article, July 7) and your correspondents to this page, nor their sly and gradual abandonment by British governments.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. YAPP,
9 Oakland Park, Church Stretton,
Shropshire SY6 7AW.
July 9.

Journalistic ethics

From Mr Drummond Hunter

Sir, I do not much care for a procedure of entrapment based on journalistic deceit (reports and leading article, July 9).

Do noble ends ever justify ignoble means? Where unethical means are employed, there may be short-term gains. In the long term, however, the basic values of a decent society will almost certainly be seen to have been eroded by actions which clearly have more to do with circulation wars than with an incorruptible search for truth.

Yours etc,
DRUMMOND HUNTER,
17 Warriston Crescent,
Edinburgh EH3 5LB.

From Mr David Turner

Sir, Mr Alastair Campbell (letter, July 9) may be wrong. Whilst being questioned in an interview I heard on Radio 4 about the alleged conversation with Mr Roger Liddle, Mr Greg Palast was asked: "Do you have it on tape?" After a slight hesitation, he replied: "We have it for certain."

I made a contemporaneous note of the glib ambiguity of that *it*.

Yours cronily,
J. D. TURNER,
57 Church Drive,
Ravenshead, Nottingham NG15 9FG.
July 9.

Age of bishops

From the Rector of Chatham

Sir, Whatever their age (letter, July 7), we would always want our bishops to be wise. By and large, wisdom does come with age; though, of course, as with academic prowess or experience, age is no guarantee of it.

For bishops, as indeed for all Christians, wisdom will also be very generously informed by faith and the Holy Spirit. The secular world's increasing tendency to idolise youthfulness and specialist skills or knowledge, the Church would — and I trust will — do well to resist in choosing her bishops.

Yours faithfully,
R. CAMPBELL PAGET,
The Rectory,
65 Maidstone Road,
Chatham, Kent ME4 6DP.
July 7.

From the Bishop of Rochester

Sir, Canon Michael Saward is wrong to say in his letter that none of the present diocesan bishops was under 45 when appointed.

I was appointed to the See of Rochester at the age of 44.

Yours faithfully,
†MICHAEL ROFFEN:,
Bishopscourt,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1TS.
July 8.

Prescott's Peking duck

From Mr J. T. Wakefield

Sir, I read with interest your report and leading article (July 7) on John Prescott and his preference for Peking duck prepared and cooked in Hull, when compared with the duck he ate in China.

I carried out a survey for the Hong Kong Government of Chinese restaurants in Britain some twenty years ago, and one of the snippets of information I gathered was that ducks reared in and around Grimsby were exported, in quantity, to Hong Kong specifically for use in Chinese restaurants.

During a visit to Hong Kong some years later a restaurateur in Aberdeen (Hong Kong) confirmed that all his ducks came from Grimsby.

Perhaps, then, Grimsby (or Hull?) ducks have something their Chinese mainland counterparts lack, and that Mr Prescott may indeed have a point.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES T. WAKEFIELD,
2 Garden Court,
Riverside Road,
West Moors, Dorset BH22 0LQ.
July 7.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 10: Sir Jeremy Greenstock was received by The Queen this morning upon his appointment as United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

Lady Greenstock was also received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Señor Jaime Quiroga-Matos was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Bolivia to the Court of St James's.

Señora Saavedra de Quiroga was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Philip Astley (Director, Protocol, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) was present.

Sir Apenera Short (Her Majesty's Representative in the Cook Islands) was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Lady Short was also received by The Queen.

The President of the Republic of Peru, accompanied by Señora Keiko Fujimori, visited Her Majesty this afternoon and remained to lunch.

The Princess Royal was present.

The following were invited: His Excellency Dr Eduardo Ferrero Costa (Minister of Foreign Affairs), His Excellency Dr Jorge Baca Campodonico (Minister of Economy and Finance), His Excellency Mr Eduardo Ponce-Vivanco (Ambassador of the Republic of Peru), Mr Alfonso Bustamante (former Prime Minister of Peru), Ing Jorge Camet (Special Adviser to The President on Economy and Finance), Mr Peter Westmacott (Director, Americas, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr John Illman (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Peru).

The Lord Haskel (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the Departure of The President of the Republic of Peru, accompanied by Señorita Keiko Fujimori, and bade farewell to His Excellency and Señorita Fujimori on behalf of The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

July 10: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, arrived at Walmer Castle this afternoon.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 10: The Duke of Kent, President-in-Chief, the British Racing Drivers' Club, today attended the practice sessions of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire.

His Royal Highness, Royal Fellow, the Royal Academy of Engineering, this evening attended a Soirée at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire.

Royal engagements

TODAY:

Princess Alexandra, as Deputy President, British Red Cross Society, will visit their shop at 88 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, at 3.40; and will open the Julian Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, at 7.00.

Dinner

Chambers of Anthony Scrivener, QC

Present and past members of the Chambers of Anthony Scrivener, QC, gave a dinner last night at Lincoln's Inn to mark the appointment of Mr Justice Penry-Davey to the High Court.

Lady Penry-Davey, Mr Justice Hidden, His Honour Oliver Martin, QC, and His Honour David Peck were among those present.

Lincoln's Inn

Mr Michael Richard King has been elected an Ordinary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

Merchant Taylors

The following have been elected officers of the Merchant Taylors' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr P.M. Franklin-Adams; First Upper Warden, Mr J.R. Perring; Second Upper Warden, Mr J.P. Hall; Upper Renter Warden, Mr P.H. Ryan; Under Renter Warden, mr H.R. Oliver-Bellasis.

Vintners' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Vintners' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr P.E. Cooper; Upper Warden, Mr A.J. Buchanan; Renter Warden, Mr D.B. Butler-Adams; Swan Warden, Mr H.J. Newton.

Saddlers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Saddlers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr D.S. Snowden; Key Warden, Mr M.R. Quirk; Quarter Warden, Mr M.F.S. Bullen; Renter Warden, Mr M.A.C. Laurie.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, 62; Mr Giorgio Armani, fashion designer, 64; Mr Nadeem Aslam, novelist, 31; Lord Bolton, 69; the Right Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, 51; Mr Graham Clark, former Governor, Wandsworth prison, 61; Mr Robert Compton, former chairman, Time Life International, 76; Professor Ian Craft, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 61; Mr Peter de Savary, company chairman and yachtsman, 54; Lord Janner of Braunstone, QC, 70; Miss Julia Trevelyan Oman, designer, 68; Lord Penrhyn, 90; Mr Hermann Prey, baritone, 69; Mr Dean Richards, rugby player, 35; Mr G.D. Slaughter, former Headmaster, University College School, 61; Dr Derek Stevenson, former secretary, BMA, 87; Mr John Stride, actor, 62; Mr John Swift, QC, Rail Regulator, 58; Mr Gough Whitlam, QC, former Prime Minister of Australia, 82.

TOMORROW:

Mr A.G. Bamford, former Principal, Homerton College, Cambridge, 68; Mr John Bullock, former joint senior partner, Coopers & Lybrand, 65; Sir Alastair Burnet, broadcaster, 70; Mr Peter D. Carr, former chairman, Occupational Pensions Board, 68; Lord Cuckney, 73; Dr Jean Curtis-Raleigh, psychiatrist, 65; Mr Gareth Edwards, former rugby player, 51; Dame Mary Glen Haig, honorary life president, British Sports Association for the Disabled, 80; Sir Arthur Hetherington, former chairman, British Gas Corporation, 87; the Rev Philip Holdsworth, former Master, St Benet's Hall, Oxford, 77; Mr M.G. Matthews, former director, Royal College of Music, 67; Lord Quirk, FBA, 78; Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, 62; Miss Jennifer Saunders, comedian, 40; Lord Walker of Doncaster, 71.

PAUL ROGERS



Candis Peters and James Hagges, from Fulham, who have recently announced their engagement

Institute of Actuaries, Faculty of Actuaries

The following have completed the examinations requirements for the qualification of Fellowship of the Institute of Actuaries:

Allan, S R, London; Armstrong, Miss C L, Birmingham; Atkinson, M R, Horsham; Bakhda, M, London; Ball, Mrs K L, London; Bannister, J W, Birmingham; Bayliss, J A O, Horsham; Bennett, D A, Croydon; Beswick, Miss K F, London; Bradford, Miss N S, Horsham; Brooke-Taylor, C A, London; Brown, Miss A C, Hertford; Brown, Miss C J, London; Burke, A A, Cape Town; Burman, S M, Cape Town; Burns, E P, Dublin; Burton, P J, Birmingham.

Calder, S S, Horsham; Cameron, B R, Cape Town; Cantle, N J, Salisbury; Carr, A D, Horsham; Cass, Mrs M P, Liverpool; Chamberlain, H F, Jakarta; Chan, U C, Singapore; Claffey, M T, Dublin; Clitheroe, N, Norwich; Cohen, A M, Sydney; Conlon, I W, Belfast; Convery, Miss C, Edinburgh; Cooper, R, Oxford; Cooper, S, Manchester; Cope, A C, Hertford; Coxen, Miss S D, London; Cross, Mrs S M, Tunbridge Wells; Cutting, D A, Hertford; Daly, Ms C O, London; Davies, G J, London; Davies, S J, Croydon; Dawson, F C, London; Dean, Mrs M, Salisbury; Donner, G J, Melbourne.

Edgar, K, Hertford; Edmonds, G J, Horsham; Edwards, M D L, Oxford; Efthyvoulou, D, London; Elwine, Mrs S K F, London; Evans, R W, London; Finch, A J, Belfast; Fitzpatrick, C F, Dublin; Ford, P R, York; Gale, P W J, London; Geeson, P N, London; Ghotbi-Ravandi, K, Tunbridge Wells; Gledhill, Miss E C, Salisbury; Goddard, A M I, Salisbury; Goldby, A K, London; Grant, A N, Dublin; Gravelsons, B P, London; Green, C G, Croydon.

Haines, C T, London; Hales, S, London; Harvey, M S, Horsham; Heffernan, B E, Dublin; Hehir, J, Dublin; Hillman, J C S, London; Hodgart, E, London; Hosking, M P, Oxford; Howard, G, Horsham; Howells, Miss L J, Salisbury; Hung, Y-S H, Hertford; Hutchins, C M, London; Innes, D R, Horsham; Israeli, Miss N, Johannesburg; Jaffray, M, Glasgow; Jessop, N D J, London; Johnstone, P S, Johannesburg; Kavanagh, N J, Dublin; Kerr, R J, Norwich; Knight, A J, Birmingham; Koch, A H, Cape Town.

Laird, G S, London; Lancaster, Miss C L, London; Lawson, R M, Leeds; Laye, S R, Liverpool; Leeves, A R, Cheltenham; Levin, A M, Johannesburg; Levin, S D, Cape Town; Loots, W, Johannesburg; McClintock, W M, Belfast; McLean, G C, London; Maguire, T M, Dublin; Mandley, A P, London; Manning, K J, Dublin; Mansi, C R, London; Martin, Miss B, Bristol; Michaels, D R, London; Mittal, M, London; Monk, R J, London; Morris, G, New York; Morris, S A, London; Murphy, K P, Croydon; Murray, P J, London; Myers, N J, Croydon; O' Dea, J L, Dublin; O'Hare, N M J, Bristol; O'Leary, M L, Cape Town; Olsen, G, York; Ong, A S K, London; Overy, C A, London; Paschalides, J A, Johannesburg; Patel, L P, Tunbridge Wells; Patfield, S M, Oxford; Peet, J, Manchester; Penn, A D, London; Penn, R J, Bristol; Phillipson, Ms R A, London; Pines, Ms L S, Johannesburg; Pinnell, G P J, Bristol; Pither, K N, Horsham; Polley, Miss C M, London; Powell, M D, Manchester.

Rademeyer, F M, Harare; Raichura, S K, Nairobi; Reekie, B W, Johannesburg; Ring, P H, Bristol; Rivalland, J M L, Johannesburg; Rogers, I J, Norwich; Rogers, M T, London; Rowland, Miss A E, London; Rusconi, R D, Croydon; Ryan, M J, Dublin; Saltmarsh, T D, Peterborough; Scanlon, M J, Cape Town; Seth, A, London; Shah, M, London; Slater, Mrs J K, Leeds; Smith, D M, York; Somerset, Miss C J, Manchester; Spira, J M, Johannesburg; Swallow, A, Birmingham; Swaminarayan, S, London; Sylvester, J T, Birmingham.

Thavarajah, Miss V, Croydon; Thirion, Miss E, Cape Town; Tippin, P J, London; Toone, A K, Bristol; Totten, L R, Croydon; Visage, Ms M, London; Vogel, S R, Wiesbaden; Wales, P J, London; Wall, S L, Dublin; Walpole, S R, Cologne; Walraven, A K, London; Walsh, P T, Dublin; Warren, A J, Cape Town; Waterton, N R, Croydon; Webb, Miss H I, London; Webb, P D C, Salisbury; Webster, T A, Exeter; Weinberger, S J, Oxford; Williams, G J, Cheltenham; Williams, Miss S J, Salisbury; Wilts, Miss L F, London; Wright, J A, Hertford; Wynne, R, London; Yardley, B J, Sydney; Yellowlees, C, Edinburgh; Yip, Miss J C, Hong Kong.

The following have completed the examinations requirements for the qualification of Fellowship of the Faculty of Actuaries:

Adams, B T, Glasgow; Bennet, Mrs S A, Edinburgh; Campbell, D J, Edinburgh; Cockerill, S J, Isle of Man; Conway, C J, Glasgow; Crosland, Miss M E, Edinburgh; Donaldson, S M, Glasgow; Esterhuyse, T J, Cape Town; Ettles, K J, Edinburgh; Heynemann, C J P, Cape Town; Kingston, Ms C L, Dublin; Kirkman, S L G, Edinburgh; Macaulay, Miss S J, Dublin; Martin, R C, Johannesburg; Metcalf, D C, Edinburgh; Millar, Miss L S, Edinburgh; Morris, E A, Johannesburg; Moss, P J, Glasgow; Murphy, E C, Glasgow; Murray, Mrs A J, Edinburgh; Murray, B J, Isle of Man.

Papachristou, D, Salisbury; Payne, M A, Glasgow; Roberts, Miss C L, Glasgow; Sith, H P, Glasgow; Stevenson, Mrs E M, Glasgow; Tomkyns, Miss A C, Cape Town; Williams, H V, London; Williamson, J B, Cape Town; Yule, W, Edinburgh.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.R.K. Allen and Miss E.J. Muirhead

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Allen, of Melbourne, Australia, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Muirhead, of Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Mr H.J. Bradbeer and the Hon Nino Strachey

The engagement is announced between Harry, younger son of Mr T.L. Bradbeer, FRCS, and Mrs Bradbeer, of Dunsford, and Nino, daughter of Lord O'Hagan, of Weare Giffard, and Princess Tamara of Imereti, of Devon.

Mr P.M. Doggett and Miss S.J.C. Palmer

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Doggett, of Barley, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony Palmer, of Cambridge.

Dr R.P. Fenton and Dr M.S. Brayshaw

The engagement is announced between Ronan, younger son of the late Mr William Fenton and of Mrs William Fenton, of Kanturk, Cork, Ireland, and Samantha, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Allan Brayshaw, of Tronniscliffe, Kent.

Mr L.M. Flanagan and Miss S.K. Phillips

The engagement is announced between Lee, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Flanagan, of Pimperne, Dorset, and Suzannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Phillips, of Lorwood, West Sussex.

Lieutenant Commander A.T. Goodman and Miss T.S. Amos

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Ron Goodman, of Ramsgate, Kent, and Tamsin, daughter of Dr and Mrs Harry Amos, formerly of Cambridge.

Mr J.S. Gibbons, QC and Miss S.V. Jenkins

The engagement is announced between Jeremy Stewart, elder son of Mr Geoffrey Seed Gibbons, of Bighton, Alresford, Hampshire, and the late Mrs Rosemary Gibbons, and Sarah Valerie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael John Jenkins, of Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent.

Mr P.J. Harwood and Miss E.J. Elliott

The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Harwood, of Sidcup, Kent, and Elizabeth, daughter of Dr Peter Elliott, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Mrs Rosemary Waring Green, of Alresford, Hampshire.

Mr N.S. Pitcher and Miss S.C. Youngman

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Christopher Pitcher, of Rye, East Sussex, and Susan, only daughter of the late Mr David Youngman and of Mrs Youngman, of Fernhurst, West Sussex.

Mr I.D. Riches and Dr S.K.W. Griffith

The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs L.G. Riches, of Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mrs S.P. Alexander, of Medmenham, Buckinghamshire, and the late Mr P.W.C. Griffith.

Marriage

Flight Lieutenant R.J. Knighton and Miss C.E. Jenkins

The marriage of Flight Lieutenant Richard John Knighton, of Hilton, Derbyshire, and Miss Caitlin Elizabeth Jenkins, of Leeds, was solemnized in the Chapel of Clare College, Cambridge, on Saturday, July 4, 1998. Canon O.A. Conway officiated.

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland 1306-29, Turnberry, Ayrshire, 1274; Thomas Bowdler, self-appointed Shakespearean censor, Ashley, Bath, 1754; Yul Brynner, actor, Sakhalin Island, off Siberia, 1915.

DEATHS: Albert Chevalier, music-hall entertainer, 1923; Alfred Dreyfus, French army officer, the victim of anti-Semitism, who was wrongly imprisoned on Devil's Island for espionage, Paris, 1935; George Gershwin, composer, Hollywood, 1937; Laurence Olivier, Baron Olivier, actor and first director of the National Theatre, Steyning, West Sussex, 1989.

China's "Terracotta Army" was uncovered near the ancient capital of Xian, 1975.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Julius Caesar, Roman statesman, Rome, 100 BC; Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffordshire, 1730; George Eastman, pioneer of photography, New York, 1854; Amadeo Modigliani, painter, Leghorn, 1884; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Hamar, Norway, 1895; Oscar Hammerstein II, songwriter, New York, 1895.

DEATHS: Jack Cade, rebel leader, Heathfield, Sussex, 1450; Desiderius Erasmus, scholar, Basle, 1536; Robert Stevenson, civil engineer, Edinburgh, 1850; Gertrude Bell, traveller, Baghdad, 1926.

Henry VIII married Catherine Parr, his sixth, and last, wife, 1543.

Turkey ceded Cyprus to Britain, 1878.

SOUTH AFRICA RESTORED TO WORLD CRICKET AS SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED

BY SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT BUSH decided yesterday to lift sanctions against South Africa, despite a last-minute telephone call from Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader.

Herman Cohen, the US assistant Secretary of State, said Mr Mandela told Mr Bush that the dismantling of apartheid had not proceeded as far as it should have. Later Mr Mandela criticised President Bush's decision to lift sanctions as premature . . .

The lifting of American sanctions followed the decision earlier in the day by the International Cricket Council, meeting at Lord's, to reinstate South Africa to world cricket after an absence of 21 years. On Tuesday South Africa was readmitted to the Olympic movement in time for the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Colin Cowdrey, the former England captain and ICC chairman, would not confirm the voting was unanimous, but said that everyone had voted and nobody was against. That left it clear that one or more of the ICC countries — possibly the West Indies — abstained . . .

Mr Bush's move has angered Democrats in Congress who believe that a trade embargo is the most effective way of ensuring social change in South Africa. Thomas Foley, the House Speaker, disputed that President de Klerk had fulfilled the last of five conditions required for the lifting of sanctions — the release of all political prisoners. Liberals say the State Department recommended an end to the American boycott because it narrowly defined such prisoners.

The ANC says about 1,000 people are still in jail for their political views, but American officials say the difference arises because the ANC counts those who committed violence . . .

The removal of sanctions clears the way for renewed direct air links with South Africa, American imports of agricultural products, metals and minerals, and commercial bank loans. A ban on arms sales and nuclear materials will remain in force.

John Major, a cricket fan, said: "I warmly welcome the announcement to re-admit South Africa to the International Cricket Council and its return to international cricket."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who is visiting South Africa, welcomed the decisions to readmit South Africa to the Olympic movement and Test cricket, and the ending of trade sanctions. Observing black yougsters playing cricket with British equipment, Mr Hurd said: "I'll be taking back a mixed message - that we are helping to train formidable opposition."

ON THIS DAY

July 11, 1991

After 21 years South Africa was readmitted to world cricket. Its refusal in 1968 to allow Basil D'Oliveira, classified Coloured under apartheid, to play cricket for England in South Africa was one of the events that led to its exclusion from world sport

JUDA NGWENYA



President Mandela of South Africa with Basil D'Oliveira, after the president had given a lunch for the former England cricketer in Pretoria in 1996

PERSONAL COLUMN

Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear that my children are living by the truth. 3 John 4.

BIRTHS

BIASE – On July 2nd at The Portland Hospital to Claire (née Gray) and David, a daughter, Olivia Mary.

CLINCH – *On July 8th 1998*, to Gail and Nicholas, a son, George Alastair Gurney.

DEBAIG – On 6th July 1998 to Rachel (née Perry) and Nicolas, a son, Hugo Alan.

GORHAM – On July 7th at The Portland hospital to Dorothy (née Ingalla) and Steven, a son Oliver.

KULUBYA – On July 7th at The Portland Hospital to Barbara Malwana and Dan Subi Kulubya, a daughter Serah Wallwo Kagale

LONGWORTH – On July 4th at The Portland Hospital to Jenny (née Maleady) and Keith, a son Luke. Welcome.

MACPHERSON – On 7th July to Emma (née Peers) and Rob, a son, Jack.

McMILLAN – Amy Olivia, Born 11th June 1998, due 11th July 1998. Daughter of Susan and Carl.

RIEMER – On July 6th at The Portland Hospital to Ine (née Pieters) and Pieter, a daughter Emma. A sister for Sophie.

SERGEANT – On July 3rd 1998 to Julian and Brenda, a daughter, Lucy Jean, sister for Tim and Edwin.

THOMAS – *On 3rd July, 1998* to Ben and Katie (nee Worsley), a boy, Ivo Taylor.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BLAKE-SWAN. Dennis to Helen at Hampstead Parish Church on 10th July *1948. Now living in The Close, Salisbury.*

DEATHS

APPEL – Jack on Thursday 9th July 1998, died peacefully after a determined struggle. Devoted husband of Jane, much loved father of Julie and Fiona, grandfather and brother. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

BAKER-CARR – Air Marshal Sir John d'arcy Baker-Carr K.B.E on 9th July aged 92. Beloved and unique husband of Margery. Service private. Letters from very close friends only.

CHIDLEY – Jane. Died quickly and peacefully on July 4th. She will be very much missed by her children, grandchildren and many old friends. Funeral service 2.00 p.m. on Monday July 20th at St. Michael and All Angels, Beaconsfield. Family flowers only please – any donations for Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, c/o Arnold F.S. 891, London Road, High Wycombe, HP10 9YB.

CRAIG – Harvey, Hugh Craig Harvey MC, on July 8th 1998 aged 73. Loving and much loved husband of Jean and father of Catriona, Grants, Sally and Tim. Thanksgiving service on Friday 17th July at 2.30pm at Dulverton Parish Church.

FORTE – Lucienne Henriette Rolande. Passed away peacefully on July 7th, 1998 aged 79 years at the Avon Gorge Nursing Home, Bristol. Much loved mother of Marie-Josephe and grandmother of Lisa and Lauren. She will be sadly missed. Requiem mass Wednesday July 15th 12 noon at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol followed by interment at Shirehampton Cemetery. Flowers to R.Davies & Son, 381 Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol.

FORTE – Lucienne Henriette Rolande. Passed away peacefully on July 7th 1998 aged 79 yrs at the Avon Gorge Nursing Home, Bristol. Much loved mother of Marie-Josephe and grandmother of Lisa and Lauren. She will be sadly missed. Requiem mass Wednesday July 15th 12 noon at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol followed by interment at Shirehampton Cemetery. Flowers to R.Davies & Son, 381 Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol.

GARNETT-CLARKE – Richard (Dick). Peacefully on July 8th. Beloved husband of Jacqueline, father of Lorraine, Anthony, Arthur and Mary Margaret. Devoted grandfather. Funeral service Wednesday 15th July. Enquiries to CA Nethercotts FD. 01707 652288

GIBB – Joan Ruth Stormont (Née Bare) died peacefully on 8 July 1998, aged 88. Beloved wife of the late Alexander Ronald Gibb L.D.S. R.C.S. T.D., much loved mother of Jocelyn Wakeford and Robert Gibb, proud grandmother to Jacomina and Alexander. A service of thanksgiving in celebration of her life will be held at All Saints Church, Wing on Friday 24 July at 3.30 p.m.

GUTHRIE – Christina Cochran (Kirstie) née Stevenson, peacefully at home on 8th July 1998, a week before her 97th birthday. Cremation private. Thanksgiving service at the parish church 3pm on Thursday 16th July. No flowers. Donations to Age Concern or to 'Bless the Children (UK)' – working in Romania, c/o Doves, Swanley BR8 8ES

GIEVE – David Watson O.B.E. on July 9th aged 79 years, beloved husband of Susan and very dear father of Ann, Margie, John and Sarah. Grandfather of Robert, Stephen, Lucy, Katie, Annabel, Jonathan, Daniel and Matthew. Funeral Service at Eames Parish Church on Thursday 16th July 1998 at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Royal National Lifeboat Institution "Pool". All further enquiries to The Co-operative Funeral Service (Dunoon) 01369 706607.

HARDY – Nancy. Dearly loved wife of Charles, mother of Charles and Keith and Gran to Clare, Polly, Adam, Alice, Sophie and Charles. Peacefully on the 8th July 1998 at the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Linc. Funeral Service to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Boston, on Wednesday 15th July at 12.15 pm, followed by family cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to The Pilgrim M.R.I. Scanner Appeal, Boston, c/o Carr Funeral Service, Holmes House, 2 Spilsby Road, Boston, Lincs. PE21 9DA. Tel: 01205 311300

HAYWARD – Ronald Stephen (Ron), ISO BEM died suddenly but peacefully at home on 6th July 1998, aged 78 years. Former Chief Welfare Officer, Inland Revenue. A loving husband, dad and grandad. A kind, generous and special man who will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues. Funeral service at Woking Crematorium on Wednesday 15th July at 2.30p.m. All enquiries to Funeral Directors on 01483 756704 (24hr)

JACOBS – David Maurice Jacobs OBE. On Friday July 10, beloved husband of Mariagrazia, father of Francis and Michael, and grandfather of Sophie. Cremation on Monday July 13 at 1.30pm at West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium.

MARROW – Cyril Behjet, peacefully on 8th of July 1998 in his 64th year. Much loved husband of Sylvia, née Bahosky, father Zina, (Mrs. Zaid Rassan), Janine (Mrs Said Freiha), and of Nadim; and brother of Rev. Stanley B. Marrow, S.J. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday the 15th of July 1998, 11:00 a.m., at the Brompton Oratory, followed by interment at the Gunnersbury Cemetery. A reception will take place on that same day from 2:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington High Street. No flowers, donations may be sent to the Catholic Chaldean – Syriac mission, Rev. Andrew Abouna, 38 Cavendish Avenue, London W13 0JQ

READ – Robert William on July 7th at home. Much loved husband of Olga and father of Mark and Crispin. Funeral Service at St. Walframs Greatham at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 14th July. No flowers; donations to the British Heart Foundation.

ROGERS – Stephen Roland, formerly of Maidstone and Old Coulsdon, beloved wife of Gelda and father of Christine and David. Passed away on 4th July at home.

SCHRODER – Ruth Hurndall (née Muirhead) peacefully at home in Stirling on 9th July 1998, aged 97 years.

DEATHS

RUSSELL – Katherine Frances (Kit) née Stewart, died in peace on 9th July, aged 89. Funeral on Wednesday 15th July 12 noon at Christ Church, Christ Church Street, Chelsea. Family flowers only please donations if wished to Time & Talents Association c/o Robert Armitage, 12 Milner Street, SW3 2PU. A thanksgiving service will be held later.

TALBOT TITLEY – Benjamin. On July 7th after a short illness at Chelsea and Westminster hospital. Dear father of Stuart and Brooke. Funeral at West London Crematorium Kensal Green London W10, on July 14th at 9:30 a.m. Enquiries to John Noden Funeral Service. 0181 969 1819

WANDS – Richard Robert died in Chichester on 8th July 1998 aged 77 years. Dearly loved and honourable husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 15th July. Family flowers only, donations to Wessex Children's (Hospice) Hospital Trust c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester. 01243 782136

ZALLMANN – Paul died on Wednesday 8th 1998 at St Wilfrids Hospice. Beloved husband and sole mate of Jenny, loving father of Drew, Giles, Lara, Nicky and precious son of Pauline and Carl (Dec'd). After courageously battling for 3 months, Paul is now with our Lord Jesus Christ. Funeral service to be held at St Wilfrids Church at 2.00pm on Wednesday July 15th 1998. Family flowers only and donations to St Wilfrids Hospice, 2 Mill Gap Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CLARKE-(née Sheehan) Kathleen Margaret, 11/7/77, John and JM remember with eternal love the humour and humanity of a great lady

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BROWN – Peggye Melinda. Today is our Wedding Anniversary, always in my thoughts with great love. Leslie.

GERARD – Robert Nicholas dearly beloved son of Alfie and Margie Gerard we loved you so much Nicky. Love Mum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDREA For the past few days I live in search of you, and in my happiness for us. I thank God for meeting you. I truly love you, Marios.

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LEGAL NOTICES

MEAD END INN LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 2761290
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

1. By a written resolution of the above named company in accordance with S.381A of the Companies Act 1985 (the "Act") passed on 8 July 1998 the payment out of capital of £90,363 for the purpose of the company acquiring 1 fully paid ordinary shares of £1 from Mr J Wright was authorised.
2. The amount of the permissible capital repayment as defined by sections 170, 171 and 172 of Act was £90,363.
3. The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Act are available for inspection at the registered office of the company situated at 10 Station Hill Road, Wateloovville, Hampshire PO7 7EY.
4. Any creditors of the company may at any time within the period of 5 weeks immediately following 8 July 1998 (being the date of the written resolution) apply to the High Court under section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the assets of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

DORMER, FERNAND WILLIAM, 15 Charswood House, Vauxhall Bridge Road London SW1, died 16th September 1997; particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, 31 Warwick Road, London SW1V 2AF before 17th September 1998.

JAMES, DOROTHEA MERAB, 28 St Georges Drive, London SW1, died 17th February 1998; particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, Solicitors, 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 17th September 1998.

TULLY, FLORENCE RACHEL late of 138 Hemingford Road, London N1 1DS died on 12 March 1998 pensioner to A. Styles, Executor, of 136 Hemingford Road, London N1 1DS before 21 September 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL

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OBITUARIES

LILI ALVAREZ

Elia Maria Gonzalez-Alvarez y Lopez Chicheri, Countess of Valdene, Wimbledon finalist, skier, ice-skater, journalist, author and feminist, died on July 8 in Madrid aged 93. She was born on May 9, 1905.



Lili Alvarez in old age, standing with a portrait taken in her sporting heyday

When Lili Alvarez took to the Centre Court of Wimbledon to dispute the ladies' singles final against Kitty Godfree in 1926, the British press dubbed her "The Señorita". She came to Wimbledon with her reputation as a rebel already established by her use of the so-called "skirt-trousers", which enabled her to get around the restrictions placed on women's clothing on court. She never won Wimbledon, losing her first final to Kitty Godfree and two more to Helen Wills.

This, however, was not enough to stop such a versatile and intellectual woman from taking up a bewildering array of sporting, literary and religious challenges. She filled her shelves with trophies in sports as varied as motor car racing, skiing, figure-skating and even tango dancing. She became a rebellious thinker and progressive Christian in Franco's straitjacketed Spain, writing a host of books which concentrated on her favourite themes of feminism and Christian spirituality.

Elia Maria Gonzalez-Alvarez y Lopez Chicheri, known to a generation of Spaniards as plain "Lili", was born at the Hotel Flora in Rome. Early on in her childhood the family, although Spanish, moved to Switzerland because of her mother's ill-health.

By the age of four she was already keen on sports, having been taught by her parents to ice-skate and play billiards. She won her first figure-skating competition at the age of 11, beating the reigning French champion, and at the age of 16 she won the gold medal for ice-skating at the St Moritz international competition.

Her family moved to France's Côte d'Azur when she was 18, and she moved in a social set that included royalty, artists and politicians. Among her tennis partners at the time was Sweden's King Gustav V.

Tennis was never her only sporting interest. As early as 1924, aged just 18, she was one of the winners in the Catalan Automobile Championship, driving a Peugeot over a 250-mile course. She even won a German tango-dancing championship. Later on in life she would become Spanish ski and ice-skating champion, taking on her country's *machista* sports authorities along the way.

But tennis was to be her first path to fame. The Señorita had been on the point of becoming Spain's first ever Wimbledon winner in the first of her finals when, in her own words, "My saint flew back to heaven". Britain's Kitty Godfree managed to overturn her lead in the third set to win 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Among those who travelled to London to watch the match were Spain's King Alfonso XIII.

Alvarez was finalist again in 1927 and 1928, but lost both matches in straight sets to Helen Wills. In the end Alvarez' only major victory on court was winning the doubles at Roland Garros with Kea Baumann of The Netherlands in 1929.

Among those whom she met during this era was France's Marshal Foch. "Young lady, I do not think I would ever dare to challenge you with a racket," he declared.

"And I, Marshal, would never dare to declare war on you," she replied.

After she stopped playing in major tournaments Lili Alvarez began to cover tennis as a journalist. In 1931 the *Daily Mail* also asked her to cover Spain's troublesome politics. While working in Madrid she met her husband, the French Count of Valdene, whom she married in 1934. They separated five years later after Lili lost the child she was carrying. She did not remarry, and never had children.

In 1941, following Franco's victory in the Civil War, she became Spain's women's ski champion, but only after being reprimanded for accusing the organisers of *machismo* when the women were forced to wait while the men's events were held first.

That year she was also accused of being "anti-Spanish" by the Spanish Tennis Federation, and she found herself temporarily banned from its competitions.

The following year, however, she gave up competitive sports and began a long and fruitful writing career in which she concentrated on her twin interests of feminism and spirituality. She was a "progressive" Christian, challenging the official National-Catholic morality of the early Franco years.

"It was a time when women were constantly having to produce their marriage certificates," she explained. "They had turned women into idiots."

Her first book, *Plenitud* ("Fullness"), looked into the causes and meaning of satisfaction. She considered herself fortunate to have experienced this fullness herself and recognised that it was difficult to acheive. "But one should never stop trying to attain it," she said.

Her 1956 book, *En tierra extrana* ("In a Strange Land"), made her one of Spain's best-known lay spiritual thinkers. "She considered herself 'atypically pious'," the writer Lorenzo Gomis explained. "Her books combined militant feminism with intellectual religiosity."

"I am a Catholic and, if you want, a pious woman. But that does not make me a retrograde, nor does it mean I have swallowed the whole thing unquestioningly," she declared. Her new friends included working-class Catholic leaders such as Guillermo Rovirosa and the priest Tomas Malagon.

Her other titles mixed sport, feminisim and Christianity. They included *El Seglarismo y su integridad* ("Secularism and its integrity"), *Feminismo y espiritualidad* ("Feminism and spirituality"), *El mito del amateurismo* ("The myth of amateurism") and *La religiosidad masculina y su desdicha* ("Male religiosity and its misfortune"). Just two months ago she published a last book on her favourite themes, *La Gran explicacion desde la vida y el deporte* ("The great explanation from life and sport").

But Lili Alvarez' sporting prowess was unknown to younger generations of Spaniards until Conchita Martinez eventually became Spain's first female Wimbledon champion in 1994.

"I brought speed and *alegria* [joy], to tennis," she said later in life when called on to explain the twin importance of sport and spirituality. "It, in turn, gave me an opportunity to take part in the battle by which one grows and becomes a person."

This year Spain's sporting authorities had finally decided to recognise her contribution as a pioneer sportswoman. She had been due to receive the country's Gold Medal for Sports during a Davis Cup tie late this month.

LUCIA VALENTINI TERRANI

Lucia Valentini Terrani, Italian mezzo-soprano, died from leukaemia in Seattle on June 11 aged 51. She was born on August 28, 1946.



Lucia Valentini Terrani: at her peak she was the leading Italian specialist in the Rossinian mezzo-soprano roles

ONE role dominated the career of Lucia Valentini Terrani. This was Angelina, the heroine of Rossini's comedy, *La cenerentola*. When she was studying singing in her home town of Padua a perceptive teacher suggested that she might take a look at the brilliant *rondo* which ends the opera. She followed up the advice and found that it suited her well. Thereafter Angelina's aria was to stand her in very good stead.

She made her stage debut when she was only 23, singing that same Angelina in the small town of Brescia. Three years later she won a competition put on by Italian television to discover new Rossini voices. The real breakthrough came shortly afterwards when La Scala suddenly found itself short of an Angelina. Teresa Berganza, the leading exponent of the role at the time, had fallen ill. Claudio Abbado, the Scala's music director, flew in from Japan, auditioned Valentini Terrani and gave her the job on the spot.

This was the beginning of a crucial partnership between conductor and mezzo. The production, by the late Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, became justly famous and was toured all over the world by La Scala. When the company came to Covent Garden in 1976 Berganza again cancelled through illness and Valentini Terrani, then virtually unknown outside her native Italy, made her London debut to considerable acclaim.

Audiences immediately appreciated the smoky timbre in the voice, characteristic of the best Rossini mezzos, and the exceptional vocal agility. But under Abbado's severe tutelage Valentini Terrani was never a show-off. He helped her to nurture the warm, cello-like sound that was her trademark. He also brought out her latent sense of humour.

That latter quality was particularly evident when she played the Marchesa Melibea, a rich Polish widow, in *Il viaggio a Reims*, Rossini's comedy of national stereotypes which Abbado rescued from oblivion in the mid 1980s. Abbado toured his hand-picked *Viaggio* cast around the world in both theatres and concert halls. He recorded it twice and on both occasions insisted on Valentini Terrani as the Marchesa.

She was at the start of her career a natural Rosina in *Il barbiere*, but was probably past her vocal best when she eventually sang the role at Covent Garden. The haughty Isabella in another Rossini comedy, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, was much more suitable and her complete control over this part, by which the opera stands or falls, is evident in her recording of the piece. It was as Isabella that she made her debut at New York's Met in 1975.

Valentini Terrani will be chiefly remembered in Rossini's comedies, where that understated sense of fun missing in some of her rivals was an immense asset. She also tackled a few of his tragedies, usually putting on male trousers for these *travesti* roles. Pesaro, the composer's birthplace, was the setting for several of these during its annual summer festival. They included Malcolm in *La donna del lago* and the title part in *Tancredi*.

Valentini Terrani was cautious about what she tackled outside Rossini. She was a surprise choice as Mistress Quickly in Verdi's *Falstaff* in a Covent Garden production which marked Carlo Maria Giulini's return to opera. She sang it both in Los Angeles, where it opened, and in London. It did not give her much opportunity to impress and she dropped it from her repertory. Covent Garden also engaged her as Azucena in a new and, as it turned out, unsuccessful staging of *Il trovatore*. But she cried off and admitted that she was scared of Verdi's more flamboyant mezzo roles, although she did record Eboli in *Don Carlos* for Abbado in the Paris version.

Abbado persuaded her to learn a little Russian and sing the Princess Marina in Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, which opened the Scala's 1979-80 season in an austerely grand staging. She also recorded a couple of Haydn operas. But neither of these avenues was explored further.

Home-grown French opera was more attractive. Under the encouragement of the conductor Georges Prêtre she sang Charlotte in Massenet's *Werther* in Florence in 1978, with Alfredo Kraus in the title role. It was as Charlotte that she made her debut at the Paris Opera. With Prêtre she also performed, again in Florence, Mignon in Ambroise Thomas's opera.

Valentini Terrani's career came at a time when opera was rich in mezzos, many of them expert Rossinians. But until the arrival of Cecilia Bartoli none came from Rossini's native Italy. For a good ten years at her peak Valentini Terrani was *the* Italian Rossini mezzo.

Lucia Valentini married the actor, Alberto Terrani, adding his name to hers. There are no children.

MILESTONES



Johnny Speight, playwright and scriptwriter, died on July 5 aged 78. He was born on June 2, 1920.

When Johnny Speight began writing *Till Death Us Do Part* in 1963, Alf Garnett's right-wing tirades were shocking fare, especially in comedy. The scripts often got him into trouble, though the programme was always popular. The intention was to ridicule the prejudices of the sort of working-class people Speight knew from his life in the East End, but many bigoted viewers found Garnett sympathetic. The series ran until 1974, and was revived in the 1980s as *In Sickness and in Health*. Speight also wrote stage plays, and scripts for Morcambe and Wise, Frankie Howerd and Peter Sellers.

Obituary published on July 6.

Martin Seymour-Smith, writer and critic, died on July 1 aged 70. He was born on April 24, 1928.

Martin Seymour-Smith was perhaps best known for his writing about his friend Robert Graves, culminating in his large biography of 1981. But as one of the most copious of freelance literary writers, he published on the widest variety of topics, gathering the fruits of his learning into the massive *Macmillan Guide to Modern World Literature* — the ultimate bluffer's guide. He published a number of volumes of verse, beginning with in 1953. A number of novels followed, along with editions of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*, Ben Jonson and Marvell. A biography of Kipling asserted that he had been a homosexual; another, about Hardy, also examined the sexual aspect in detail and proved controversial.

Obituary published on July 4.

George Lloyd, composer, died on July 3 aged 85. He was born on June 28, 1913.

An unashamed late-Romantic composer, George Lloyd



rejected the theoretical rigours of modernism, and for decades his music went unheard. His rehabilitation, in the past 20 years, came as a relief to many: it was still possible for music to sing. Although three symphonies and two operas had been warmly received before the war, his progress was then blighted by traumatic naval service. Despite a commission for the Festival of Britain, he worked from the 1950s to the 1970s as a market gardener. The BBC accepted his Eighth Symphony in 1969, but did not broadcast it until 1977. Meanwhile, an American enthusiast, Peter Kermani, sponsored a series of recordings which brought belated recognition and "buckets of dollars!"

Obituary published on July 6.

Chief Moshood Abiola, Nigerian politician, died on July 7 aged 60. He was born on August 24, 1937.

An accountant and press magnate, Moshood Abiola emerged as an unlikely champion of democracy in Nigeria. His claims to be his country's only legitimately elected democratic leader were based on his performance as Social Democrat Party candidate in the presidential election of June 1993, although confusion surrounded it and only 30 per cent of the registered electorate actually voted. But Abiola was brutally treated by the autocratic General Sani Abacha, who seized power in Nigeria in November 1993, and was still in detention in the wake of Abacha's recent death. He seemed to stand for persecuted decency, although nothing in his own past deportment suggested that had he been elected to supreme power himself, he would necessarily have behaved very differently from Nigeria's recent military rulers.

Obituary published on July 9.



KAY THOMPSON



Kay Thompson (*left*) playing Maggie Prescott, alongside Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn in *Funny Face*, a musical about the fashion world

Kay Thompson, actress and author, died on July 2 in New York aged 95. She was born on November 9, 1902.

KAY THOMPSON was responsible for two unforgettable, mischievous characters in her twin careers as actress and author, both earning themselves a place in popular culture.

The first was the precocious six-year-old Eloise, a girl who sprang from the pen of Thompson and roamed New York's Plaza Hotel with delightful abandon. The second was the celluloid character Maggie Prescott, the magazine editor played by Thompson in *Funny Face* who admonished women to "Think Pink!" Based on the legendary *Vogue* Editor Diana Vreeland, Thompson's vivid characterisation and the movie's Technicolor celebration of fashion has made it a cult favourite among clothes aficionados.

Though her film career was sporadic and Eloise was the only notable character she invented, both *Funny Face* and *Eloise at the Plaza* were popular enough to sustain Thompson's career and reputation. And, although she died a virtual recluse in New York, the Eloise books have never been out of print, and have sold more than half a million copies since 1983 alone.

Kay Thompson was born Kitty Fink in St Louis, Missouri, the daughter of a jeweller. Talented as a piano player and gifted as a singer, she attended George Washington University in St Louis before joining the St Louis Symphony Orchestra in 1928.

She once said that she was always stage-struck and eager for the solo spotlight. From a stint with the symphony orchestra she moved on to a career in cabaret, singing with the Mills Brothers on radio and working as a singer and arranger with the Fred Waring Band.

By 1935, her ambition had been rewarded with her own named show on CBS radio. In 1937 she made her Broadway debut in *Hooray for What!*, though she was subsequently sacked from the cast.

She rebounded by winning a job at MGM studios as a musical arranger and vocal coach to Lena Horne and Judy Garland. In particular, she forged a strong friendship with Garland, later becoming godmother to her daughter, Liza Minnelli.

Thompson made a number of films, including *Manhattan Merry-Go-Round* (1937), *The Ziegfeld Follies* (1944) and *The Kid from Brooklyn* (1946), but it was not until the Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire picture *Funny Face* in 1957 that she became etched in the public mind.

Thompson created Eloise two years before her success in *Funny Face*. One day, while rehearsing her cabaret act with the Williams Brothers, she arrived late and apologised in a child's voice. She announced that she was a haughty six-year-old called Eloise, and the precocious character soon caught on with the band. Then, inspired by a one-woman show she staged at the Plaza in 1954, Thompson wrote the character into a book in 1955 and set it in the luxury hotel.

In the book, illustrated by Hilary Knight, Eloise lived at the Plaza with her nanny, dog and turtle, living the life of Riley in its marble halls. Eloise attended weddings and debutante balls uninvited, and in so doing captured the hearts of children and their parents.

The popularity of the book led to an Eloise doll, a record, fashions, a TV special and three more books, *Eloise in Paris* (1957), *Eloise at Christmastime* (1958), and *Eloise in Moscow* (1959). Once asked if she understood the appeal of Eloise, Thompson suggested it was her rebellious, freewheeling personality. "She is a free spirit living in an enchanted world."

Thompson was highly protective of Eloise, refusing offers for uses of her that she could not control. In 1989, when the New York developer Donald Trump took over the Plaza, he asked Thompson for permission to use Eloise to promote the hotel, but she refused.

Thompson was married twice, first to the trombonist Jack Jenney, and then to the radio producer William Spier. Both marriages ended in divorce. She leaves no survivors.

Equities lower in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	505	**Allied Domecq**†	550	-2	4.5	13.4
412½	295	Belmer (HP)	350	...	5.5	
42½	12½	Burn Stewart	14	- ½	15.2	
775	432	**Diageo**▼	768½	+10½	2.9	33.5
900	755	Glenmorangie A	880	..	2.0	20.2
325	258	Highland Distl	281	+ ½	4.0	13.0
215	160	Matthew Clark	202½	..	8.4	7.8
59½	37½	Minlgee W	42½	..		
2021½	1143½	SA Breweries	1143½	-75	2.7	18.2

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1505½	1178½	ABN-AMRO	1503½	-12½	2.1	21.8
1345	951	**Abbey Ntl**	1050	+6	3.7	16.1
1032	585	**Alliance & Leic**	811	+ ½	3.2	16.3
941½	587½	Allied Irish	941½	+6	2.0	26.4
458½	373½	Aus New Z	434½	-6½	4.7	..
5968½	3881½	Bank America	5968½	+28½	..	
813	431	**Bank Scotland**	675	-8½	1.8	18.1
1996	1068	**Barclays**	1797	+9	2.6	16.7
1332½	916½	Bk of Ireland	1324	-8½	1.9	..
£104½	£79½	Citicorp	£104	-65½	..	
1690½	1565½	Commerzbk	1634½	+9½	3.2	..
543½	290½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	343½	-18½	1.1	77.5
5368½	3658½	Deutsche Bk	5187½	+25	1.2	..
1206½	1153½	Espirito Santo	1193½	-3½	3.2	..
531	228½	Fuji Bank Y	253½	-1½	1.5	62.9
2073	1294	**HSBC**	1508	-37	4.1	12.1
2002	937	HSBC HK	1439	-31	4.3	11.5
1000	670	**Halifax**	749	-6	2.9	21.7
842½	642½	Irish Perm	802½	+30	2.0	23.3
1030	698	**Lloyds TSB**	856	-8	2.5	22.7
916½	759	Nat Aust Bk	845½	-3½	4.3	..
1241	751	**Nat West**	1105	+1	3.6	23.6
673	482	Northern Rock	498	-8	2.6	18.0
1140	565	**Ryl Bk Scott**	988	-12	2.8	18.4
1050	528	**Stand Chart**	662	-13	3.5	10.6
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	..
439	337½	Westpac	394½	-6½	3.4	..
400	308	**Woolwich**	320	-2	3.7	16.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1195	873	**Bass**▼	1080	-14	3.3	18.7
81½	50½	Brit for the Bdr	75	-1	3.4	..
197½	144½	Burtonwd Bref	184½	..	4.3	..
162½	110	City Centre Rest	137	..	2.6	21.3
700	290½	**Compass Gp**	614½	-2½	1.0	40.3
342½	280½	Eldridge P 'A'†	309½	..	2.5	15.1
384½	251½	Enterprise Inns	326	-7	3.0	18.8
562½	425	Fuller Smr 'A'†	552½	..	2.6	15.6
538	400	Greenalls Grp	489½	-10½	4.3	11.8
760	676½	Greene King†	708	-1½	3.2	12.9
358	260	Groupe Chez Ger	330	-1	1.3	22.8
281½	214½	Hardy Hanson†	241½	..	6.1	10.5
2175	1825	Holt J	2062½	..		
76	62	Inn Business	65	-1½	3.6	8.7
317	279	Marchfield†	297½	..	3.4	11.4
360½	254½	Marston Thmp	296½	..	3.8	12.6
472½	402½	Merlaid†	447½	..	3.7	11.9
384½	285	Old Eng Pub▲	286	-1½	1.3	20.2
35	21½	Paramount	29½	..		
950	678½	PizzaExpress	830	-10	0.5	37.0
377½	297½	Ramsdens (H)	302½	-2½	2.1	31.7
388½	157½	Regent Inns	181	-10½	2.5	12.9
237½	140½	SFI	171½	-10	0.6	29.9
950	717	**Scot & New**	829½	+18	3.6	15.4
303½	197½	Slug & Lettuce	234½	-7	3.4	30.7
358	227	Vaux Group	312½	+1	4.5	12.9
342	272½	Wetherspoon JD	286½	+1½	0.9	30.8
1145	850	**Whitbread**†	918	-30	3.5	16.5
562½	469	Wolverhampton D	516	- ½	4.7	11.1
558½	381	Yates Bros	452½	+2	1.0	27.8
827½	637½	Young 'A'†	807½	-5	2.5	28.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
76½	43½	Aggregate Indst	63½	- ½	3.5	21.9
268	199	Anglian Group	243½	+1	5.3	12.9
447	290	BPB†	349½	-4½	3.1	15.7
118½	88½	Baggeridge Brk†	101½	..	4.4	11.0
62½	42½	Blockleys	44	+ ½	1.3	50.3
407	271½	**Blue Circle**	343	+2½	4.2	13.0
149	98½	Breedon PLC	116½	..	6.2	14.1
192½	125½	Br Dredging	189	..	4.1	20.5
945	705	CRH	885	-4	1.2	22.1
62½	47½	Caklbread Rby	60½	..	7.7	5.1
156½	107½	Cape	145½	-6	5.6	12.5
215½	158½	Caradon	187	-1	5.5	13.0
116½	100½	Caradon pf	111½	..	8.1	
130½	52½	Chelsea Gp	54	..	10.0	4.0
385	212½	Dyson (J&J)†	347½	..	2.2	
120	75	Dyson 'A'†	85	..	8.9	
60½	43½	Eurotone	47	+ ½		
197½	147	Epwin	155	..	7.9	8.5
131½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy	131½	..	3.8	12.2
300	150½	Graham Gp	150½	..	5.0	15.0
282½	197½	Halstead (J)	199	-2½	6.2	13.3
395	245	**Hanson**	378	+3½	4.0	13.0
265	179	Hepworth†	205½	..	5.5	
179½	120½	Hewetson	150	..	6.5	7.9
294½	202½	Heywd Wlm	240	..	7.2	9.1
66	43	Ibstock	51½	..	5.3	12.8
365	250	Johnston	317½	..	4.7	17.1
107½	84½	Lilleshall	96½	..	6.5	9.5
129½	82½	Marley	108½	- ½	5.7	9.4
162½	120	Marshalls	139	..	4.8	15.4
445½	329½	Meyer Intl	341½	..	4.8	21.3
77½	62½	[illegible]	66	- ½	3.5	11.9
149½	103½	Pilkington†	115½	+1	4.3	63.1
196	142	Polypipe	144	..	3.0	10.8
24	14½	Quintain	16½	-		
1400	740½	**RMC**	1010	+10	3.3	14.7
117½	78½	Ruberoid	97½	..	6.3	11.1
143	102½	Rugby Group	102½	-1	4.9	14.7
103½	73½	Russell (A)	93½	-5	4.0	18.6
276	195½	SIG	216	-5½	4.5	10.9
3½	1½	SMP	2½	+ ¼		
237½	207½	Sharpe & Fisher	207½	-3½	3.8	12.8
25	11½	Spring Ram	12½	+ ½	1.0	
330	144½	Streamline Hldgs	310	..	3.7	17.6
133½	93	Tarmac	102	-2	6.9	12.2
125	83	Tilbury	96	..	6.9	9.5
628½	457	Travis Perkins	507½	-1½	1.7	15.6
107½	60½	Tudor	85	..	4.4	11.0
372	180½	Ultraframe	308½	+1	1.4	26.0
570	352	Wolseley†	374½	+7½	3.9	12.1

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
191½	121	Albright & Wil	131½	-13½	5.4	13.0
142½	97½	Amber Indt	100	..	7.2	8.5
118	90½	Amberley Gp	112	..	2.1	16.9
100	72	Allnsn Ex	75½	..	11.3	12.3
3106½	2003½	BASF DM	3106½	+9½	2.2	..
1109	790	**BOC**†	843	+6	4.1	15.4
581	331½	BTP†	559	-19	2.7	25.1
26½	16½	Banner Chem†	18½	+ ½	8.1	7.1
3221½	2131½	Bayer DM50	3090½	..	1.9	..
126	94½	Brent Chems	112½	-4	3.4	12.7
342½	210½	Br Vita	276½	+ ½	4.0	14.0
187½	128½	Brunner Mond	186½	..	5.8	10.2
296	238½	Catseng (W)	240	..	4.7	11.5
229½	155	Cky Technology	210	..	2.3	40.6
474	234	Courtaulds	449	..	3.7	27.2
469	351½	Croda	374	-9½	2.8	18.0
284½	203½	Doeflex	250	+1½	4.2	10.7
178	116	Elementis	147½	-2	..	23.4
313½	260½	Ellis & Everard	270½	..	4.7	11.6
78½	53½	Euro Colourt	67	+ ½	4.7	11.6
246½	138½	Gibbon	245	..	4.3	..
94½	64½	Hickson	88½	-1	1.5	11.9
3216½	2096½	Hoechst	3143½	+25	1.6	..
1244	738½	**ICI**	998	-22	3.2	39.5
321½	189	Inspec	267½	-9½	3.2	12.1
193½	121½	Kalon	121½	..	6.4	18.0
890½	605	Laporte	702½	+ ½	3.7	14.2
73	35	Merisem	43½	- ½	6.9	4.2
35	27	Maanacot†	32½	..	5.4	..
380	270	Porvair	271	-6½	2.9	15.1
231	181½	Scapa†	190½	-2	4.0	12.5
1761¼	1437¼	Takeda Chem	1612½	-11½	0.6	20.8
248	196	Victrex†	203½	-1	3.0	16.2
685	585	Wassallme R	615	..	5.5	9.8
240	167½	Yorks Gp	179	..	6.7	11.3
440	282½	Yule Catto	341½	-5	3.7	14.0

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Inds	39½	..		
375	230	Abbey	315	+5	2.6	23.7
480	332½	Allen†	458	..	3.0	18.8
217½	114	Amec	173½	-1	3.8	17.1
875	400	Arcy	687½	-7½	2.0	22.1
260	143	Andrews Sykes	220	+10	1.7	22.0
286½	180	Ashtead	232	- ½	1.2	28.9
48½	28½	Avonside	37	+1	5.1	7.1
46	26½	Baxa	40½	+1	4.4	10.8
341	224	Barratt Devs	365½	+1	4.4	11.7
235	161½	Beazer	195	+5½	4.4	11.0
401½	293½	Bellway	312½	..	3.8	10.4
29½	18½	Bellwinch	29½	..	..	10.1
95½	46½	Ben Bailey	67½	-2	4.7	7.8
784½	576½	Berkeley Gp	606½	..	2.1	9.9
170	143	Bett Brost	144	..	6.0	4.0
315	235	Bool (Henry)	235	..	4.5	8.8
276½	192½	Bows Homes	217½	..	5.4	9.5
42½	30½	Britannia Grp	41½	..	4.2	16.7
155½	102½	Bryant	111	..	5.7	10.2
129½	102½	CALA	117½	+3	4.1	7.3
4	3	Campbl & Arms#	3	..		
141½	83½	Clarke T	128½	..	5.9	8.8
42½	20	Costain	32½	..		
125½	96½	Countryside†	97	..	4.2	7.6
145½	94½	Crest Nicholson	124	..	4.1	8.1
122½	85½	Cussins	98½	..	5.7	7.5
280	160	Eve Group	272½	..	3.3	..
23½	19½	Galliford	20½	..	6.4	11.9
1100	950	Gleeson (MJ)	967½	..	2.4	14.2
175	98	Havelock Euro	105	..	5.7	7.1
212	162	Hewden-Stuart	178½	..	2.5	21.5
28	20	Howard Hldgs	23	..	5.4	22.8
788	369½	Jarvis†	673	-3½	1.5	25.4
252½	181	Keller	227½	..	2.8	14.3
250½	199½	Kier	250	..	3.6	12.6
397½	309½	Laing (J)	396½	..	3.3	21.3
133½	117½	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	133	..	6.0	...
14½	8½	Lovell (YJ)	13	..		
212½	155½	Maunders (J)	209½	..	3.8	12.1
181½	133½	McAlpine (A)	153½	+8	6.1	9.1
191½	113½	McCarthy & S	165	..	2.5	12.0
142½	70	Melvenry	132½	..	0.9	15.1
253½	171½	Morgan Sindall	246½	..	2.6	15.2
397½	301	Morrison Const	369½	..	3.0	..
150	77½	Mowlem (J)	147	..	3.4	13.5
259½	182½	Persimmon	191	..	8.3	9.4
109½	80½	Peterhouse	92½	..	5.0	6.4
138½	112	Pochins	129½	..	2.8	13.7
158½	116	Prowting†	133½	..	4.3	8.4
198	139	Redrow	160½	+5½	2.9	11.9
325	222½	Spandex	317½	..	1.5	18.3
94½	70½	Swan Hill	70½	..	4.9	12.8
142½	112½	Tay Homes	114	..	8.3	9.2
238	174	Taylor Woodrw	198½	..	2.3	15.1
308	190	Tilbury Dougls	271½	..	4.4	14.9
29½	21½	Try Group	22½	..	3.4	8.1
88	63½	Vibroplant	82½	..	8.3	29.3
139½	109½	Walsham	116½	..	5.6	..
60	38½	Ward Hldgs	47½	..	6.8	6.7
272½	228½	Westbury†	240½	..	3.8	10.3
16	12½	Wiggins	15½	..	..	22.1
191	132½	Wilson (C)	134	- ½	5.1	..
733	511	Wilson Bowdn	618½	..	2.5	12.7
149½	92½	Wimpey G	118½	+ ½	6.0	9.8

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	13½	Acton Co Sols	23½	-10½	1.5	19.5
365	280	Adam & Harvey	312½	+2½	9.0	..
[illegible]	3	Accolade	22	- ½	..	
2	1	Adv Br Eng	1½	..		58.8
457	340	BSS Group†	342½	...	8.0	10.7
20½	12½	Bearing Power	14½	..		
35½	34½	Boyd 'A'	35½	..	4.0	..
735	550	Bunzl	583½	-4	3.6	13.3
16½	10½	Bridgend Gp	16	..	1.6	25.5
113½	79	Brit Fittings	100½	..	6.3	8.3
372½	320	Caltyst	345	..	5.1	9.2
206	65	Car Group	65	- ½	9.3	7.4
179½	134½	Coverdale	155½	+5½	3.0	10.5
54½	31½	Cook (DC)	42½	..	7.2	6.1
139½	96½	Dag Motors	122½	..	8.9	6.6
129½	105½	Dennons Ett	117½	..	3.2	7.7
276	209	Diploma	213	..	6.5	8.9
601	446	Electrocomponts†	490½	+8½	2.3	28.0
186	132½	Eurodis Elec	134	..	4.9	33.0
122	84½	European Mtr	94½	..	8.4	6.9
305	247	Evans Halshaw	248½	-5	8.6	7.9
70½	39½	Fife Indmar	63	..	7.3	7.1
400½	296	Finelst Grp	298½	..	3.4	11.8
35½	21½	Gardiner	26½	..	4.8	11.2
82½	60½	Glenchewton	61	..	4.1	8.7
139½	89½	Gowrings	113½	..	3.9	10.8
20½	13	HR Owen	17½	+ ¼	5.7	11.4
405	340	Headlam	342½	+5	2.6	17.8
160	115	Holders Tech	122	+4½	6.9	7.6
120	39½	ISA Intl	52	- ½	7.9	5.1
250	136½	Inchcape	197½	..	6.0	23.8
80	37½	Jacks (Wm)	60½	..	7.2	6.7
583½	351½	Kwik-Fit	503	+ ½	1.6	22.6
614	422½	Lex Service	515	..	4.2	13.1
123	100	Lookers	100	..	10.6	6.3
561	351	Menzies (John)	540	..	3.6	13.3
5½	2	Middlesex	3½	+ ¼	..	
29½	14½	Midsomst	22	-1	2.7	..
326½	242	Mortais	274	-5	4.4	..
281	197½	Normamber	215	..	1.7	14.3
342	192½	Parico	232½	+16	4.7	11.2
312½	220½	Pentagon	221½	..	6.0	10.5
255	167½	Perry Gp	194½	..	6.1	7.6
443	272	Premier Farnell	285½	-8	5.6	11.3
164½	119½	Quicks Group	134	..	7.2	9.2
285	140	REA6	155	..	2.6	26.0
3	1½	Reece	2½	..		
38½	29½	Ring	31½	..		
12½	4½	Ronson	4½	..		
5	3½	Russ Gp	4½	..	..	9.5
112½	85½	Ryland	85½	-2	6.4	6.5
31½	25½	SEP Intl	28	..	5.9	13.0
30	14	Saltre	14½	-2	..	
290	196½	Sanderson Bram	197	..	3.5	7.2
67½	46½	Sedgemoor†	47½	- ½	5.3	..
273½	226½	Syltone	252½	..	3.4	11.8
195½	130½	Time Products†	134½	..	11.6	7.4
235	132½	Trust Motor Grp	230	..	1.4	4.0
440	374	UNICOt	390	..	2.2	18.0
124	88½	United Carriers Gp	100½	+3½	1.4	23.1
290½	232½	Vardy (Reg)	233½	..	4.5	..
800	655	WF Elect	725	..	2.7	22.4
192½	140	Wyko	142½	..	2.9	13.4
165½	135	Young (H)†	144½	...	4.1	9.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	240	Antofagasta	240	-6½	3.0	17.7
365	229	Ascot Hldgs	291½	-3½	5.0	8.8
642	455	Brokes Hill	535½	-4½	3.6	
747	467½	**BAT**	644	-1	4.4	16.3
43½	39	Bizney Inv	30½	- ½	9.7	7.9
279½	167	Cookson	216	-6	4.3	12.6
277½	217½	Cosalt	235	- ½	6.2	7.9
613	410	DCC	555	..	1.7	17.9
383	302	Gallaher	348½	+14½	6.9	9.9
450½	235	Hutch Whampo	305½	-16	4.2	..
491	383½	**Imperial Tob**†	486	-4	5.6	11.7
335½	154½	Jardine Math	159½	-7	9.6	7.4
94½	69½	Lonrho Africa	73½	+1½	4.0	18.1
629½	474½	Powell Duffryn†	520	-5	6.0	13.1
147	101	Staveley†	110½	- ½	10.2	27.3
368½	174½	Swire Pacific	216½	-11	6.5	6.7
393½	288	Tomkins	345½	+ ½	4.0	13.8
250	205	Unitas	215	..	7.5	10.9
570	415	Wardle Storeys	483	+ ½	5.4	14.0
381½	295½	Wassall	288	-9½	2.7	13.2
135½	63½	Wholecroft	65	-5	9.4	11.3

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	310	Br Energy†	518½	+1	3.5	19.5
440½	298½	**National Grid**▼	432	-1½	3.5	21.8
700	516	**National Power**†	559	-1	6.0	11.7
900	725	**PowerGen**†	862	+2	4.3	13.5
597½	502½	Hydro-Elect	568½	+2	4.4	12.3
620½	475	**Scottish Power**†	591	+1½	4.3	14.3
585	467	Southern Elec	579	+7	5.3	14.3
617	522	Viridian	616	..	4.8	13.6

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1240	715	ARM Holdings	1170	-5	..	
410	304½	Acal†	375	..	3.6	13.2
1300	690	Admiral	1277½	+2½	0.3	..
58½	27½	Amstrad	42	..	1.5	
35	26½	Arlen	31½	..	5.2	10.4
129½	80½	Actec	83	..	2.3	8.8
77½	43½	Adam	60	-3½	..	
182½	123½	BICC	131½	+7½	7.6	..
108½	51½	Bestec Hunter	108½	..	11.8	10.5
455	260	Blick	452½	+1	4.1	14.7
604½	345½	Bowthorpe	504	+6½	2.8	19.2
18	12	Bulgin A	16	..	9.8	9.3
205½	150½	CML Microt	152½	..	5.7	14.4
37½	10	Channel Hldgs	13½	..	10.6	4.2
51	38½	Chloride†	48½	..	2.1	14.6
109½	64½	Clarke	107½	..	4.2	11.9
912½	668	Crichley†	672½	-90	2.6	..
342½	195½	Delta	196½	-11	8.1	7.7
451	292	Dorcaso	439½	-1½	3.7	14.7
77½	50½	Dowding Mills	51½	..	7.7	9.7
330	240	Dreck	267½	..	0.8	28.8
1250	825	Electrolux 'B'	1018½	+18½	9.3	26.8
28	17	Emess	26½	..	2.8	19.1
1900	1065½	Ericsson 'B'	1868½	-3½	0.7	40.2
491½	311	Eurotherm	421	..	3.0	18.5
590	313	Farey Group	315	+1	3.7	9.0
587½	335	Filtronic	411	..	0.5	28.4
18½	7½	Forward Tech	11½	..		
577½	338	**GEC**	548	+3	2.6	23.3
49½	35½	Ind Control	37½	- ½	1.7	..
22	15	Intelek	16	..	7.3	11.5
92	54½	LPA†	66½	+5	3.4	27.8
1004½	445	Mitel	839½	-16½	..	
180½	87½	Network Tech	97½	+10	1.7	11.0
372	255	Oxford Inst	307½	-2½	3.4	13.3
111	23½	Pace Micro	61	-1	0.8	..
6271½	3450	Philips Lmp ne	5231½	-81½	0.9	33.6
98½	38½	Plasmon	87½	-2	..	
356	271	Pressac	277½	+1	2.0	20.3
60½	27	Prestwick	32½	..	4.2	9.1
725	204	Psion	687½	-11	0.5	59.0
437	243½	Racal Elect	423½	+9½	1.8	79.8
97½	51½	Rademec	71½	+2	5.4	15.7
505	335	Renishaw	487½	+5	2.3	28.5
1½	1½	Roxane	1½	..		
292½	191½	Roxboro	237½	..	3.8	12.3
361½	202½	SDX Bus Syst	316½	..	1.0	31.2
377½	232½	Senomex	237½	..	5.0	11.7
59½	36½	Silvermines	43½	..	4.2	9.8
5012½	4138½	TDK	4562½	-68½	0.6	..
72½	57½	TGI	59½	..	8.0	..
125	86½	TLG†	114½	..	4.0	20.7
62	7	Tadpole Tech	18	..		
67½	36½	Telemetrx	57½	..	3.5	13.9
365	220	Telspec	220	-27½	..	27.0
158½	113½	Thorpe FW	134½	..	4.3	7.3
159½	70½	Total Systems	116½	..	1.8	17.0
160	100	Turnball	160	..	4.0	21.1
18	7	Ultima Networks	10	..		
111	66½	Verity	88½	+2	0.1	..
195½	84½	Vero	189½	..	3.8	17.0
40½	22½	Vigilan Technology	25½	+1	2.0	..
660	480	Volex	639	-10	4.5	15.4

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312½	217½	AIM	258	..	3.6	12.2
44	24½	ASW	28½	+2½	..	
255	145	Alvis	175	-1	6.1	8.0
214	129½	Alvist	199½	..	2.2	14.1
176½	152½	Ash & Lacy	152½	-1	6.3	7.2
125	70	Ayrshire Metal	70	..	9.8	4.5
535½	345½	BBA	471½	+7½	1.7	19.3
230½	154½	**BTR**▼	167½	-4½	5.7	11.0
87½	58½	BM	77½	..	5.2	6.7
92½	61	Babcock†	78	..	2.3	..
13	6½	Bailey (CH)	9½	..	3.3	..
110½	67½	Baynes (Charles)	68½	+ ½	5.8	9.7
27½	6½	Beaulord	7	..	14.3	3.7
261½	181½	Bensford	232	-1½	3.3	10.5
109	84	Bersid Cv Un Ln	97½	..	5.1	..
1285	887½	Bodycote	1170	+10	1.1	28.8
44½	35½	Booth Inds	40½	..	..	18.0
30½	13½	Braway	13½	- ½	8.7	..
141	89½	Bridport	89½	..	6.6	10.0
587	381½	**Br Aerospace**	464½	-14½	1.3	30.2
172	122½	Br Steel†	137	-2	9.1	11.6
158½	113½	Brooke Ind	115	..	5.7	6.1
18½	9½	Brunel	10	..	6.2	4.8
107½	92½	Bullough	94	..	7.7	9.3
36	25½	Carbo	28	+ ½	4.8	56.2
217½	150	Carclo Eng	161½	..	8.9	7.8
233½	181½	Castings†	192½	+2	3.8	10.5
272½	182½	Chamberlin Hill	192½	..	6.0	8.0
780	570	Charter	636½	-3½	4.9	20.8
175½	110½	Chemring†	171	..	2.2	..
275	97	Clyde Blowers†	98	..	8.8	15.5
1347½	732½	Cobham	1062½	-5	1.6	27.8
430	320	Cohen (A)	390	..		
150½	105½	Concentric	137½	..	6.7	25.0
268½	184½	David Brown	209½	..	5.5	12.5
511	282½	ES	503	..	3.8	17.6
32½	16	Elsco	28	..	..	11.4
30	27	Energy Tech†	41	..	4.6	..
161½	124½	Expamet	137½	..	3.5	13.3
228½	147½	FKI	175½	+6½	4.4	10.6
276	154	Fennert	154	..	3.5	11.6
3	1½	Femaro	2	..		
40	27	Firth Hldgs	28½	+ ½	1.3	..
182	126½	Firth Rixson†	135	-8	2.8	13.7
45½	15½	Flare	15½	-5½	..	
116	91½	GEI Intl	98	..	5.0	8.6
208½	148½	Galton Eng	190½	-1	5.2	6.7
331½	216½	Glynwed	249½	..	8.6	10.0
159½	92½	Haden MacLn	129	..	3.0	13.3
255	186	Hadleigh	235	-1½	4.1	10.4
257	145	Hall Eng	145	..	7.2	5.8
140½	98½	Halma	132	..	2.7	15.8
83½	64½	Hampson Indt	71	- ½	4.7	..
65½	32½	Hay (Norman)†	52	..	2.4	14.8
63½	40½	Headway	51½	..	3.9	6.9
71½	42½	Hill & Smith	63½	..	8.6	15.2
125	65½	How Gp	105	-5	3.3	15.2
273	210½	Hunting	268	+1	2.7	14.3
532	351	IMI	365½	-1½	3.8	11.9
655	467½	Johnson Matht	562½	-16	3.8	11.7
38½	17½	Jones Stroud	18	..	3.6	16.8
435	375	Kelsey Indt	386½	..	9.4	6.2
418	299½	Lincat	368½	..	3.7	11.7
32½	23½	Locker (T)t	27	..	4.6	7.8
23½	16½	MS Intl	20½	-1	4.7	..
508½	403½	Mang Bronze	500	..	2.5	20.7
569½	377½	McKechnie	435½	-4½	5.0	11.4
179½	150½	McLeod Russell	151½	- ½	5.9	10.6
242½	154½	Meggitt	197½	..	3.0	21.2
115	82½	Metalrax	91	-1	5.7	12.4
14½	11½	MetalTech	12½	..	..	7.0
256½	142½	Mitsui	255½	..	2.4	14.2
357½	177½	Molins	209	+4	3.9	..
501½	376	Morgan Crble	376	-8½	5.2	12.0
57½	48½	Polymodron	46½	-1½	10.1	6.6
608½	45	Powerscreen	85½	-2	15.4	2.2
230½	155½	Quadramatic	193½	-1	6.7	10.1
52½	30½	Quadrant Grp	44½	..		
60	50	Radiant Metal	55	..		
290½	226½	Renold†	237½	..	3.8	9.2
87½	51½	Richardson West	58	-1½	9.7	5.1
309	188	Rolls-Royce†	259	+2½	2.8	19.6
397	269	Rotork	330	..	3.5	22.0
246½	140	Rubicon	181½	..	4.3	13.0
1425	1028½	SKF 'B'	1028½	-31½	3.9	8.9
248	139½	Senior Eng	199	- ½	2.1	18.4
612½	412½	Smiths-Rvm	415	-2½	3.0	12.9
1580	975	Slebe	1101	-28	1.5	18.0
148½	114½	Sn Hundred	117½	-4	6.1	..
1920	702	Smiths Ind	817	-18½	2.8	18.3
18½	9	Soherst	9½	- ½	3.7	..
709	520	Spirax-Sarco	520	..	3.6	13.6
330	262½	Sterling Indt	337½	-1½	4.3	10.9
550	424	TI	435	-16	3.7	13.6
121	89½	Tinsley (E)	109½	..	7.6	..
87½	64½	Transtec	69½	..	5.1	9.5
383	241½	TT Group	304	-6	3.6	11.6
425	340	Ultra Elect	341	-7½	2.6	16.7
76	55½	Utd Inds	61½	..	5.3	8.9
252½	196	Vickers Grp	213½	..	4.2	13.2
11	7½	Villiers Gp	9½	..		
767	584	Vitec	714½	..	2.4	13.4
900	740	Vosper Thornyt	826½	..	4.3	12.2
402	280	Wagon Ind	340	..	4.1	12.0
314½	202½	Weir	216	+11	5.2	10.1
185½	137½	Wellington Hdg	166½	-1	6.2	11.2
89½	55	Wescol	62½	+2½	3.2	13.8
930	750	Whatman	925	-2½	2.1	24.3
60	42½	Witney	48½	..	9.2	5.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156½	123	Advest	126½	..	6.2	9.9
223	150	Airflow Streamt	170	+7½	5.9	16.9
701	560	Avon Rubber	580	-2½	3.7	11.7
345	245	Bowtens	247½	..	3.7	8.9
193½	114½	Britax	153	..	2.5	17.0
395½	251½	Dowst	349	-1½	3.5	14.8
413½	277½	First Tech	389	-1½	1.3	27.3
930	526½	**GKN**	830½	-1½	1.8	21.2
4671½	3418½	General Mtr	4368½	-95½	2.8	..
607	414½	Henlys	525½	..	3.8	13.3
2326½	1991½	Honda Motor	2245½	+19½	0.3	..
480	273½	Laird	291	+6	4.9	7.7
288	194	LucasVarity	240½	+ ½	2.3	13.9
244½	156½	Mayflower	202½	..	1.7	19.8
136	95½	Syltone	122½	..	7.3	..
261	252½	T & N	258	..	4.4	15.0
31½	22½	Toad	23½	..		
51½	36½	Whitsaw	44	..	2.9	..

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	526	AB Food	594½	- ½	2.1	18.4
270	202½	Acatos & Hutch	211	-1	6.2	..
37	21½	Albert Fisher	23½	- ½	18.1	9.0
285	192½	Banks (S C)	202	..	7.1	7.3
513	417	Barr (AG)	511½	..	4.1	..
45	34	Bensons Crsp	39	+ ½	5.5	8.1
360	209	Booker	238½	..	12.7	10.5
1077½	571½	Brake Bros	912½	-40	1.5	24.9
135	85	CPL Aromat	120	..	5.0	10.2
995	600	**Cadbury-Schwt**	947	-3½	1.9	25.5
262	105	Carrs Milling	128½	..	11.2	6.3
345½	234½	Carnwick	325½	..	4.5	12.9
371	253	Dairy Crest Group†	353½	- ½	3.9	13.7
67	37½	Daniels S	46½	..	1.4	15.2
545½	320	Devro	323½	..	3.7	13.7
188½	149½	Express Dairies	165	+3½	6.2	12.4
142½	99	Finlay (James)	114½	-2	3.6	12.4
611	404	Geest	575	-9	2.2	23.1
15½	8½	Global	10½	- ½	8.3	13.4
380	285	Greencore†	340	- ½	2.6	18.7
240½	164½	Hazlewood Fds	215	-5½	4.3	15.6
214½	142	Hillsdown	173½	+ ½	6.8	10.9
415	392	Linton Park	405	..	6.9	7.0
124	86	Matthews (B)	118	-1½	4.6	18.1
227½	204½	Nichols (V)	205½	..	4.8	10.8
240	182	Nthn Foods	204	-4½	4.0	18.2
20	14½	Nthmbra Fst	14½	+ ½	2.5	6.5
225½	176½	PIC Intl	223	..		
127½	89½	Paramount Foods	123	...	5.3	14.1
57	28½	Pascoe's	36½	..		
143½	82½	Peters Food	147	+1	3.9	19.0
88	69½	Pinal & Gen	79	..		
92	59	Sentry Farm	70	..	5.4	..
39½	19½	Simc Food	33	..	..	6.7
583	440½	**Tate & Lyle**†	488	..	3.5	11.0
167	111½	Treno	140	..	5.5	10.7
738½	591½	Unigate†	635	-2½	4.3	13.6
741	346½	**Unilever**†	639½	-6½	1.5	30.0
5053½	3500	Unilever (NV)	4675	+3½	1.4	12.9
300	216½	Utd Biscuits†	240	-2	5.5	17.1
62½	44½	WT Foods†	54	- ½	3.5	..

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
541	318½	Alnce UniChem	526	..	2.3	23.3
170	125	Assoc Nursg	165	-5	3.1	15.2
1025	693	Bespak	1025	..	1.7	..
525	105	Biocomps Intl	109	-7½	..	
245½	144	Care UK	237½	..	0.7	25.5
88½	29½	Calsa	32	+1	..	
550½	389½	Community H	543½	+1	2.8	19.8
34½	26½	CrestaCare	34½	..	3.6	16.4
18½	7½	Enviromed	13½	..		62.3
164½	122½	Ferraris Group†	150	-1½	2.8	13.0
172½	144½	Gyrus	159½	..		
233	141	Huwth Tec	208½	..	1.9	24.2
138½	78½	Innovative Tech	90	+3½	..	
88	68	Intercare Gp	72½	..	5.9	48.1
593	485	Isobna	547½	..	1.5	19.6
253	150	Lon Intl	219½	+3	1.5	34.1
360	190½	Nestor Hlth	330½	..	1.5	35.5
532	335½	Nycomed Amsh	441	+1	1.0	25.3
5½	5½	Premier Health#	5½	..		
11	6½	Regina	8½	..		
508½	255½	Scholl	477½	..	2.3	26.3
822½	501½	Seton Scholl†	726½	..	1.7	22.3
818	439	Shield Diag	510	-72½	..	
230	168	Sinclair Mont	174½	..	0.1	62.1
194	142	**Smith & Nephw**†	150	- ½	4.1	13.8
2½	1½	Umonst	1½	..	8.3	..
412½	295	West Hlthcare	331½	..	2.8	15.1

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

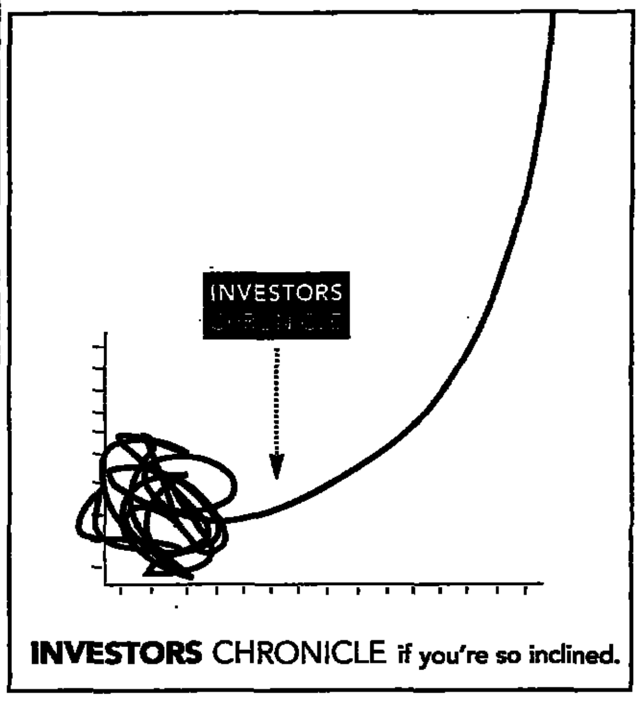
1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
177½	132½	Airsprung†	147½	..	5.2	7.7
220	165½	Alba	175	-2½	4.8	9.1
65	55	Albuont	65	..	6.2	7.6
166½	120½	Alexandra	146½	..	6.0	11.7
187½	120½	Allied Textile	122	- ½	8.7	8.0
25½	13½	Amaqur	18½	..	4.9	46.6
305	148	BLP Group	148	-5½	8.3	5.4
285½	202½	Baird (Wm)	203½	..	6.3	10.5
53½	48½	Bilston Bttrsea	48½	..	1.9	..
149½	97½	Black Arrow	107½	..	5.0	8.9
421½	255½	Black (Peter)	356½	-2½	3.3	16.6
94½	76	British Mohair	84½	..	5.9	7.9
88½	13	Claremont Gar	41½	..	6.0	..
100	70½	Coats Viyella†	72½	+2	6.1	27.9
182½	129½	Cornwell Prir Sp	131	..	3.1	10.5
368	285	Courtaulds Text	294½	+2½	6.5	11.2
33½	22½	Craighton	23½	..		
13½	5	Dalywin	5	..	7.5	..
68½	31	Dawson	32½	..	13.7	4.7
187½	126	Derby Group†	149½	-1	3.8	10.2
267½	174	Dewhirst	176	+3½	3.6	10.8
37½	17	Dixie Heel	21½	..	9.3	7.8
27	11½	Dunemond Group	17	..	3.7	36.5
130	104½	Eclipse Blinds	112½	..	4.8	9.8
42	29	Ebel	33½	..	4.5	7.8
131½	82½	FF Group	85½	+ ½	5.8	8.5
34	24	Faupel Trading	24½	- ½	11.3	..
10½	3½	Foster (J)	4½	..		
44½	35½	French	36	..	5.5	..
502½	341½	Gaskell	450	..	2.4	8.7
78½	45	Haggas (J)	46½	..	12.1	9.0
12½	8½	Hartstone Group	12½	..	1.6	..
257½	192½	Hickng Pentecost†	194	..	5.3	9.0
4	2½	Holtas Group#	2½	..		
18	10½	Honeysuckle Grp#	14	..		
102	62½	Horace Small	93	..		
405	260	IMP Intl	340	..	1.8	..
25½	9½	Jacques Vert	10½	..		
52½	33½	Jerome Grp	36	+2	11.7	12.9
320	277	Jones Stroud	278½	..	5.0	11.8
72½	47½	Jourdan (T)	60½	..	3.1	..
134	80	Kenwood App	118½	-1½	..	13.2
245	209	Lambert Howath	226	..	4.7	10.0
152	119	Lamont Hldgs	119	..	13.4	8.4
123	60	Leeds Groupt	60	-1½	14.6	4.4
17	8½	Leslie Wise	12½	..	15.0	5.3
16	11½	Lionheart	11½	..	4.4	9.0
90	69	Lyles (S)	76	- ½	4.1	7.7
210	165	McBride	193½	-1½	4.6	14.1
138	103½	Mayborn	122½	..	6.2	8.6
850	550	Osborne & Little†	562½	..	5.1	10.4
4½	2½	PEX Group	2½	..	4.6	..
128	23½	Parkland Group	29	-5	18.1	..
475	435	Paterson Zch	451½	-2	4.9	10.0
425	375	Paterson Zch 'A'	403½	..	5.4	8.9
129	98	Portland Group	98½	..	4.7	14.1
220	179	Pico	183	..	4.4	9.3
203	174	Pico 'A' Vtg	175	..	4.5	8.9
60½	37½	Powerfs	39	..	11.2	8.6
44½	38	Readicut Intl†	40½	+ ½	7.9	..
1300	852	**Reckitt Colm**	1180	+13	2.0	31.9
620	430½	Relyon	552½	..	3.3	27.8
36	17½	Richards	20½	..	12.2	..
237½	174½	Royal Doulton	215	-1	5.8	23.2
32½	20½	SEET	29½	..		
45½	29½	Sherwood Group	37½	..	12.0	10.0
110½	89½	Stalish	98½	..	5.4	11.9
285	260	Silentnight	270	..	5.3	11.0
78½	52½	Sinta	57½	-1	12.1	7.3
49½	32½	Stirling Group	41½	-1	7.9	7.5
15½	3½	Stoddard	8½	+ ½	5.7	..
252½	121½	Stoves	121½	-2½	6.2	8.0
278½	116½	SmeBowfield	116½	-2	8.8	5.5
208½	141½	Tomkinsons	141½	-1½	10.2	7.1
142	134	Usher (F)	135	..	10.2	6.9
80	60	Victoria†	75	+4	5.8	7.0
165	117½	Vyvura	144	..	4.7	10.2
73	40	Walker Greenbk	73½	- ½	6.3	11.7
185½	78½	Wsport Wldgrd	87	..	1.9	24.5
100½	58½	Wensum	91½	..	6.8	7.8
195	185	Wood (Arthur)	185	..	4.7	12.3
140	89½	Yorklyde	90	..	6.9	14.2

INSURANCE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4606½	3250	Am Gen	4471½	-134½	2.1	..
149½	108	Angerstein	141½	..	9.3	11.0
4550	3305½	Aon Corpn	4490½	-49½	1.5	..
65½	39½	Bradstock	41½	...	15.0	..
1364	1102½	Britannic	1185	..	3.5	8.0
1300	707	**CGU**	1107	-18	2.9	22.4
167	129	CLM Insce†	158½	..	10.2	10.3
277½	260½	Charles Taylor	260½	..	2.2	29.7
525½	232½	Cox Insce†	483½	+6½	1.2	35.7
565	495	Dom & Gen	545	..	2.3	39.8
159	112	Euclidian	135	-1½	13.9	16.8
491½	303	FBD H	447½	+4½	2.1	17.1
495	325	**GRE**	360½	-6½	3.3	5.2
748½	441½	Hibernian IE	649½	- ½	1.6	12.7
261	165	Hiscox†	234½	..	1.8	26.7
397½	229	Independent	342½	-4	1.2	17.1
602½	342½	Irish Lfe	598½	+9	2.3	17.6
199½	151½	Jardine Lyd Th	178½	..	7.0	12.0
185½	107	Kiln Capital†	184½	+ ½	9.3	13.0
120½	100½	Lambert Fen	102½	..	7.1	7.8
785	532	**Legal & Gen**	690½	+6	2.3	17.3
2278½	1078½	Liberty Lfe	1109½	-68½	2.7	13.0
244	145	Limit	238½	+3	4.0	4.9
627½	479	Londn & Man	481½	+2½	6.4	19.8
3768½	2881½	Marsh Mcln	3725	-43½	2.6	..
135	100	Masthead†	120½	..	16.6	6.6
87	78	New London Cap	83½	+ ½	11.3	..
558	365	**Norwich Union**	451	+12½	3.2	18.0
156	102½	Octavian	148	..	3.8	17.1
110½	81½	Oval	106½	..	6.7	..
138	117	Premium Trust	133½	..	3.7	27.5
1000	654	**Prudential**	845	..	2.3	20.0
24½	17½	PWS†	22	..	4.3	5.0
825	598	**Royal & Sun All**†	621½	..	3.7	16.5
443	167½	St James Place	312½	-6½	0.6	36.7
393	122½	Sedgwick	141½	+4½	4.9	12.6
29	20½	Steel Burrill	21½	- ½	8.8	..
645	434½	Sun Life & Pt	570	+14½	2.6	27.8
160	110	Syndicate Cap#	150	..	7.2	12.6
831	521½	Utd Assurance	601½	+13	4.4	14.1
613½	147½	Wellington	271½	+10	3.6	11.4
181	128½	Willis Corroon	178	+1	4.8	15.0
16	11½	Windsor	13	..	5.8	..
191½	146½	Wren	180	..	9.1	14.4

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
678	490	3i†	598	-2½	2.2	33.1
86	47½	Aberdeen Emg Ec	53½	- ½	..	
137½	96½	Aberdeen High Inc	128½	-1	7.8	18.8
133	84	Aberdn New Dawnt	94½	-2½	2.2	..
257	206½	Aberdeen Smlr	223	-1½	4.0	24.9
159½	116	Aberdn Sm Wts	124½	-2½	..	
3085	2465	Alliance	3010	-18½	2.5	46.1
726½	584	Anglo & O'seas	724½	-2	1.8	65.2
74½	57	Aust Opps	57	-1	0.5	..
67	50½	Baillie Gifford SM	54½	-1	..	
299	239½	Bankers	279½	-2½	2.2	44.7
118	85½	Baring Em Eu	102½	- ½	..	
613½	468½	Baring Tribne	600	-1	1.7	68.4
142½	114½	Br Assets	134½	-1½	4.5	25.1
122½	106	Br Empire Sec	118½	- ½	1.1	64.3
61½	42½	Brazilian	51½	..		
375½	313	Brunner	352	-1	2.3	55.2
110	74½	Cairngorm Dem	81	+2	1.4	..
1000	737½	Candover	867½	-7½	2.9	36.6
68½	53½	Central Euro Grwth	56½	- ½	..	
523	384	Chart European	518	+1	1.4	..
198	188	City Merch HY	192	..	6.2	15.8
281	230	City Of Lon	268½	-2	3.1	..
77½	74½	Dasso Inv Inc	75½	...	13.7	9.7
635	530	Derby Cap	602½	..		
156	127½	Derby Inc	138½	..	17.6	4.3
242½	170½	Drex RCM Smlr	223½	- ½	1.4	..
220½	174½	Dunedin Inc G	208½	-1	3.6	33.0
487	325	Dundee Smlr	419	-5½	3.1	35.6
60½	40	Edin Dragon	44½	-1	..	
29½	21	Edinburgh Inca	24½	..		
519	413½	Edinburgh IT	491½	-2½	2.9	34.0
105	81½	Edin Japan	92½	-1½	..	
544	424½	Edin US Tck	542	+2	0.9	..
673	527	Electra Invt	638½	-2½	2.0	45.0
189½	157	Eng & Scot	178½	..	2.4	38.7
805½	374	European Asset	573	-4	0.8	..
70½	40½	Fidity Asian Val	47	-1½	..	
398	277½	Fidity Euro Val	368	..	0.2	..
32½	25	Fidity Jap Val	29½	-1½	..	
177½	135½	Fidity Spec Val	164½	-	1.0	..
281	217½	Finsbury 'A't	274½	..	1.8	..
223	173	Finsbury Grth	210	+ ½	2.1	58.9
155½	116½	Fine Art Chle	120½	- ½	2.6	54.5
18½	1½	Fine Art Wts	1½	..		
647½	513½	Fleming Amer	627	-1	0.4	..
64	34½	Fleming Asian	40½	-1½	..	
12½	5	Fleming Asian Wts	9	- ½	..	
64½	30½	Fleming Chinese	36	-1½	..	
27½	10½	Fleming Ch Wts	16½	..		
507½	401½	Fleming Claver	484	- ½	1.8	67.1
699½	471	Fleming Cntlt	667	-2	0.5	..
134	99	Fleming Em Mkts	110½	..	0.5	..
392½	271	Fleming Eng	353½	-1½	1.9	52.6
411	307	Flem Grd Gth Ord	391½	..	0.9	..
164	143½	Flem Grd Gth Pf	162½	..	10.0	..
132½	102½	Fleming Inc Cap	129½	- ½	5.8	18.9
112½	105½	Fleming Ing Inc	107½	..	11.5	9.9
350½	246½	Fleming Ing Cap	329½	- ½	..	
50½	34½	Fleming Indian	38½	..		
12½	4½	Fleming In Wts	8½	..		
157½	121	Fleming Japan	139½	-3½	..	
478	364½	Fleming Mercl	414½	-2	3.2	37.6
92	70½	Fleming Nat Res	72½	- ½	0.3	..
423½	350½	Fleming O'seas	423½	+1	1.4	..
200½	148½	Fleming Smlr Cs	185½	- ½	3.0	53.9
506½	371½	Fleming US Discy	457½	-3½	0.3	..
210½	168	Foreign & Col	202½	-1½	1.4	70.9
124½	97	F&C Inc Grh	119½	..	3.8	30.8
107½	71½	F&C Eng Mkts	77	- ½	..	
302½	185	F&C Enterprise	290	-1	1.7	62.8
547	361½	F&C Eurotst	542½	-1	0.6	..
131	95	F&C Pacific	108½	-1½	2.2	55.6
182½	144½	F&C PEP	173	- ½	3.3	37.8
227	177	F&C Smallert	213½	..	1.8	54.8
179½	144½	F&C US Smlr	172	-1½	..	
68½	60½	Franklin Inc	66	..	10.0	11.1
173½	109½	Franklin Cap	157	-1½	..	
295	133½	Frmlt Dual Cp	243½	-1½	..	
63½	36½	Fulcrum Cap	57½	..		
22½	12½	Fulcrum Inc	12½	..	64.6	1.2
196	186	Fulcrum Zero	196	..		
335	270½	Gartmore Brit	327½	-3½	3.2	35.4
351	242½	Gartmore Euro	349	..	0.5	..
158	110	Gartmore Shrd	150½	..	8.2	15.0
482½	345½	G'more Smlr Cos	416	-3½	1.8	61.4
86½	52½	Govett Inc Ord	74	..	7.5	..
80	51½	Govett Inc Inc	59	+ ½	9.4	..
108	101	Govett Inc 0 Pf	105½	- ½	..	
103	59	Gov Asn Sm Cos	68	-2	1.0	..
92½	65	Gov Eng Mks	72½	- ½	0.7	..
215	151½	Govett Am Smlr	208½	-1½	..	
98½	81½	Govett High Inct	94	-1	7.4	..
108½	72	Govett Oriental†	76½	- ½	1.1	61.7
499	379½	Govett Strategic	464½	-1½	2.1	43.9
35½	19½	Gresham House†	30½	..	1.5	2.3
147½	119	GT Inc Growth	137½	- ½	3.1	30.3
180½	130	GT Japan	142½	-3½	0.4	..
158½	114½	Gulf Ft Ex Inc	151	..	6.9	..
77	61	Henderson Am Cp	75½	+ ½	..	
122½	112	Henderson Am Inc	120	..	8.1	13.2
43½	28	Henderson Am Wt	42½	- ½	..	
380	281½	Hend Elec Gen	355½	- ½	1.4	..
132½	84	Hend Far East	93	-1½	9.1	13.3
580	452	Hend Gmtrst#	570	..	1.7	71.5
178½	151½	Hend High Inct	176½	-1	4.8	24.1
42½	30½	Hend Jap Smlr	35½	-1	..	
300	219	Hend Smlr	284½	+1½	1.7	68.5
626½	495	Hend Strata	616	..	0.1	..
69½	44	Hend TR Pac	51	..	0.6	74.1
121	88½	Hend Tech	120	- ½	..	
203	135½	Herald	186	..	0.5	..
133½	105½	High Income T†	132	-1	6.4	16.6
174½	140	H Govett Smlr	164½	..	2.8	42.9
196½	139½	INS UK Smlr	185½	- ½	2.0	63.2
214½	180	Inv Cap	199½	-1	3.7	30.1
80	58½	Int Biotech	59	..		
20	1½	Int Biotec Wts	2	..		
58½	34½	INVESCO Asiat	40½	..	2.9	38.4
217½	175½	INVESCO Eng Intl	193½	..	0.8	60.9
36½	25½	INVESCO Jap Dis	29½	- ¼	..	
49½	25½	INVESCO Korea	29½	-1	..	
33½	22½	INVESCO Tokyo	25½	-1	..	
107½	83½	JF Fledg Jap	94½	- ½	..	
204½	135	J Fry Euro U	182½	+1½	3.6	..
126½	65½	J Fry Util▼	128	+1	5.6	15.8
91½	79½	J Fry Util Inct	89	+ ½	7.8	65.3
150	121½	Jupiter Ex Inct	143	+ ½	6.9	18.1
43½	19½	Jupiter Ex IncW	39½	..		
105	91	Jupiter Grd Cap	99	..	10.1	10.5
51½	44	Jupiter Grd Pfd	48½	..		
160½	135½	Jupiter Intl Grn	159½	...	3.3	..
872½	518	Jupiter Prima	815	..	0.9	..
104	73½	Kleinwort E Mkt	84½	-1	..	
178½	164½	Klwrt End	170½	..		
201½	88	Korea-Euro	98	- ½	1.2	44.4
132	97	Lato American	110½	+ ½	..	
1289	1077½	Law Debenture	1240	-4	2.9	34.5
121½	111½	Life Oil Opp	118	- ½	..	
161½	124½	Lloyds Sm Cap	148½	-1	..	
22	16½	Lloyds Sm Div	18½	- ½	29.4	4.3
178	143	Lloyds Sm Ptg	157	-3	3.3	..
217½	173½	Lon St Lawrence	209	..	3.8	32.4
429	341½	Lowland	411½	-2	3.6	35.2
812½	797½	M&G 2nd Dual Cp#	800	..		
51½	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50	..		1.6
101	75½	M&G Inc Geared†	95½	..	7.9	17.2
76½	54	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	73½	- ½	..	
26½	21½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	21½	..		3.6
183½	150½	M&G Inc Packaget	178	..	4.2	31.9
85	77½	M&G Inc Zero Div	80½	..		
70½	31	M&G Rec Cap	59½	- ½	..	
95½	53½	M&G Rec Geared	89½	- ½	8.3	..
28	21	M&G Rec Inc	22½	..	..	4.9
206	160	M&G Rec Parge	200	- ½	3.7	..
114½	106½	M&G Rec Zero Div	113½	..		
231	160½	M Conte Euro	239½	..	0.5	..
84½	60	M Conte Japan	78½	-1½	..	
125½	86	M Conte Pac	97½	- ½	2.5	39.8
366½	232½	Majedie	368	- ½	2.4	54.7
436½	325	Merchants	416	-3½	4.7	27.7
178	132	Mercury Euro Pv	174½	..	1.9	41.6
98	50½	Mercury Eur Wt	91½	- ½	..	
74½	56½	Mercury World	60½	-1	1.7	66.2
830	677½	Monks Inv Tst	809	-3½	1.5	65.6
209½	180	Morg Gren Inc	193	+1	4.5	27.0
166½	80½	Morg Wts	95	..		
82	62	Morg Lon Amer	68½	- ½	0.7	..
32½	18½	Morg Wts	23½	- ½	..	
142½	110½	Murray Eml	134	..	2.9	45.9
29½	18	Murray Eml Wts	21	..		
71	48½	Murray Emg Eco	54½	..	1.3	62.2
11½	4½	Murray Emr Ec Wt	7½	..		
538	446	Murray Incme†	505	-2½	3.6	36.2
505	431½	Murray Intl	479	-2	3.7	31.7
214	205½	Murray S/C DP	214	+ ½	..	
395	270	Murray S/C Cap	361½	-3½	..	
64½	52½	Murray S/C Inc	54½	- ½	28.2	4.3
5150	4350	Murray S/C Uts	4900	..	3.1	39.0
434½	340	Murray Small	394	+ ½	2.0	..
416	379½	Murray Ventt	393	..	4.8	..
289½	271½	Nabeest Ent	289½	..	2.2	44.0
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½	..		
58½	33½	Pacific Assets	37½	+ ½	1.3	78.2
135½	83	Perpetual Euro	130½	+1	0.4	..
156½	125	Perp Inc Gtst	140½	- ½	3.6	..
37	28½	Perpetual Jap	29½	-1½	..	
424½	322½	Perpl Uk Sm Co	382½	- ½	2.2	50.1
£200½	£168	Personal Assets	£196½	..	1.6	55.2
159	130½	Prolific Inc	144½	- ½	3.7	31.1
369½	270	RIT Cap Ptnt	364½	- ½	0.7	..
558½	516½	Robeco	539½	+2½	2.8	61.4
568	524	Rolinco	547	+2½	0.8	..
59½	33½	Schrod Asia Pac	39½	+ ½	1.6	..
73	51	Schrod Emg Cnt	57½	..		
165½	138½	Schrod Inc Gwtht	156	..	3.6	28.0
61½	43	Schrod Jap Grth	50½	- ½	..	
282½	141½	Schrod Korea	160½	- ½	..	
93½	43½	Schrod Split Cap	73½	-2	..	
135	114½	Schrod Split Inc	126	-1	8.5	15.1
180	154½	Schrod Split Zero	157	..		
179½	142	Schrod UK Grwth	168	..	2.7	..
190½	165½	Schrod Vent Intl	180½	..	1.2	..
386½	311	Scott	378	-3	2.0	60.1
233	183½	Scot American	223½	-1½	3.0	38.9
144½	91½	Scot Asian	103½	-2½	..	
140½	110½	Scot Eastern	135½	- ½	1.9	52.9
398½	318½	Scot Mtge	383½	-2	1.7	64.6
113½	100½	Scot Natl Tst	109	-3½	11.2	11.4
153	119½	Scot Valuet	145	-1	1.7	30.4
2755	2168½	Second Alliance	2670	-17½	2.5	50.0
133½	112½	Secs Tst of Scot	127	- ½	3.8	31.2
207	149½	Shires Smlr	189	-1½	4.1	29.8
183½	133½	Smaller Cos	168½	..	2.4	60.3
399	353	St Andrew Inv	388	-1	3.2	38.0
611	484	Temple Bar	603	-5	4.0	38.6
103½	82½	Throgmorton	90½	..	3.3	32.5
129½	94	Tollan Emg Mkt	103½	- ½	1.3	60.3
287½	187½	TR Euro Growth	260	-2	0.4	..
50½	44½	TR Propertyt	46½	- ½	3.0	34.5
412½	374	TR Tech Inv#	400	...	11.9	32.0
364	273	Turkey Tostt	336½	..		
169½	148½	Undervalued Astt	161½	- ½	1.3	40.5
167	150½	Value Inc Tstt	162	..	3.7	30.0
138½	102½	Value Real	134½	- ½	0.9	..
56	40½	Warrants & Val	52½	..		
110½	87½	Wigmore	102	..		
396	310½	Witan	388½	- ½	2.3	48.0
74½	65½	Yeoman Inc	67	...	31.0	4.3



LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29½	11	ABI Leis#	13½	...	15.1	..
543½	405½	Airtours	457	- ½	1.9	24.0
33	23½	Ald Leis	28	..	4.9	8.2
21	18	Amos Leis	19	..	..	38.1
157½	115	BS Group	138	-2	4.5	..
170	110	Baland	170	+45	2.9	..
120	82	Bluebird Toys	114½	...	10.4	10.5
800	575	Boosey Hwkc	645	...	1.9	25.6
35½	27½	Bundesa	32	...	9.1	7.5
159½	75½	Capital Corpn	80	...	8.0	7.0
104½	55	Cliveden	93½	...	2.7	21.3
109½	70½	Clubhaus	91½	...	..	24.3
305	144	EMC	179	-4	0.3	..
318	223	Eurocamp	238	-4	6.2	8.3
110½	67	Euro Disney	110	..		
146½	120½	Euro Leisure	125	..	4.2	7.9
168½	96½	First Choice	150	-2½	2.4	21.2
437½	289½	First Leisure	334	..	3.5	17.6
150½	110½	Friendly Hotelst	142½	-1	5.2	12.2
1217	837	**Granadat**	1099	-2	1.7	20.8
51½	36½	Hi-Tec Sports	43½	- ½	5.7	8.4
289	207½	Holmes Place	244½	..	1.5	29.3
282½	165½	Hornby	230	..	3.8	..
373	259½	Hozelckt	262	-12	5.4	15.0
200	148	Jarvis Hotels	182½	-4½	3.5	9.6
589½	351½	Jarys Hotel	555½	-1½	1.7	..
37½	24½	Kalckt	32½	- ½	3.2	14.9
370	250	**Ladbroke**	317½	-1½	2.4	23.2
329½	140½	London Clubst	158½	..	5.5	11.6
243½	192½	Macdonald Hotst	208½	..	3.0	..
163½	123½	Man Utd	163½	..	1.2	28.2
59½	33½	Mandarin Orntl	38½	+ ½	5.6	6.2
620½	418½	Millennium & Cop	505	+1½	2.1	19.5
1½	½	Millwall Hldgs	1	..		
102½	72½	Newcastle Utd	74½	..	2.7	8.0
300	155½	Northern	157½	-1½	3.2	19.3
76½	44½	Prism Leisure	55½	+10½	15.4	3.8
30	19½	Queensborough	27	..	1.9	10.5
43½	12½	Queens Moat	36	- ½	..	7.9
421	283½	**Rank Grp**	314½	+4½	7.1	12.2
49	36½	Regal Hotel	40	-1	3.9	7.7
84½	50½	Ryan Hotels £	79½	..	3.2	..
1900	1175	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1650	..	1.6	27.0
51½	26½	Sheffield United	27½	- ½	..	
252½	172½	Sinclair (Wm)	173½	..	6.2	8.7
80½	65½	Southampton	69	..	1.8	..
143½	91	Stakis	129½	- ½	2.7	16.5
298½	250½	Stanley Leisure	256½	-1	1.5	19.8
10	4	Tandem	7½	..		
346	346	Topgrade	346	..	1.3	25.6
250½	157	Tactile Hotels	224	+3	2.3	18.3
200	172½	Thomson Travel	179½	+3	1.9	21.8
78½	58½	Tottenham Hot	68	..	1.8	13.0
212½	135½	Vardon	175½	..	1.7	21.2
412½	302½	Wembley	382½	..	1.6	9.8
162½	116½	Zeters Gp	133	+3	9.9	7.7

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
445	324	Abbot Mead	414	..	2.0	21.8
179½	144½	Adscene	144½	..	7.4	15.1
100½	64½	Anglo Gp	97½	- ½	0.7	26.3
154	78	Aspen Grp	84	-8½	3.7	..
185	145½	Atlantic Telecom	150	-3½	..	
232	185	Barbour Index	230	..	5.5	25.3
3½	0½	Bricktale	1½	..		
400	320	Bsch (A&C)	380	..	4.6	15.2
370½	267½	Border TV	325½	..	2.7	24.7
515	418	Bostoll	430	..	4.3	12.0
308½	129½	Bdly Allcroft	241½	+ ½	1.0	34.5
594	333	**BSkyB**	474½	-9½	1.6	30.2
747½	487	Capital Radio	686	-7	2.6	21.5
598	408	**Carlton Comm**†	568	-17	2.8	17.0
402½	145	Character Grpt	352½	-1	1.7	14.7
63	48	Chime Comms	52	..	3.8	17.0
787½	602½	Chrysalis	785	+2½	0.4	..
97½	77	City of Lont	82½	..	9.3	12.2
108½	83½	Copyright Proms	101½	..	..	51.5
137	88	Content Commst	131	..	0.9	22.0
228½	143½	Creative Pocr	227½	+ ½	4.1	18.3
3184½	2084½	Daily Mail†	2325	..	1.1	26.9
3250	2000	Daily Mail 'A'†	2835½	-34½	1.1	26.2
206½	129½	Dialog	149½	..		
257	203	Dorling Kind	217½	..	2.6	60.1
485	253½	Dudley Jenkins	440	..	1.9	..
1347½	985	EMAP†	1263	..	1.5	28.5
685	420	ENB	500	-12½	3.3	24.7
1117½	877½	Elsevier	974½	+7½	2.6	16.7
2412½	1495	Euromoney Pb	2400	..	2.6	24.2
69	50½	Filtch	68½	..	1.3	12.2
581	468	Flextech	524	-3½	..	
245	155½	GWB Grpt	218½	- ½	1.9	28.4
355	190	Gearhouse Group	190	-2½	4.7	9.5
55½	34½	Goodwest	45	..	1.4	14.8
550	230	HIT Enter	547½	..	0.2	69.2
287½	262½	Haynes Pub	275	..	5.1	11.5
14½	9½	Highbury Hse	11	..	..	74.5
280	204	Hodder H'line	266	..	3.4	16.9
580	400	Home Counts	575	..	1.2	35.8
537	365	IBC	506½	..	2.6	16.7
93½	70½	IIE Group	72	- ½	..	
30½	18½	Incopt	28½	..	1.5	12.5
397½	307½	Independent	357½	-10	2.6	21.5
59½	40½	Ir Public Rel	50	..	4.1	9.8
182	122	Interrmedge	123½	..	4.8	9.0
280	186½	Johnston Press	218	..	1.7	17.9
369½	310½	LLP Group	311	..	1.9	25.4
60	30	Loper	59	+3	2.1	12.6
472½	305	Maxides	452	..	1.6	25.1
38½	14½	MediaKey	17½	..	8.5	6.6
1405	940	Metal Bulletin	1430	..	2.1	35.3
249	170	Mirror Gp	222½	-2½	2.8	16.3
1190	713	Miss Grp	1124	..	1.9	23.3
496½	333	News Corp	493	-2½	0.2	22.3
443½	292½	News Corp Prd	449½	-2½	0.6	..
337½	252½	Newsquest	321	-5½	2.0	18.6
15½	11½	Osprey Comms	13	+ ½	..	
1230	785	**Pearson**	1093	+8	2.2	31.3
56½	34½	Phonelink	43	..		
1225	867½	Portsmth Sunct	1215	..	1.9	18.9
115½	51½	Quarto	98½	..	5.7	12.4
730	448½	**Reed Int**	558	-4	3.1	28.7
770	509½	**Reuters**	672	-12½	2.4	25.1
185	100½	Saatchi†	165	..	0.9	..
830	651	Scot Med	794	..	3.5	17.6
564	375	Scot Radio	564	..	2.2	28.5
14½	6½	Sleepy Kids	11½	..		
556	448	Southnews†	435	-5	2.4	16.9
29½	12½	Sterling Pub	14	..	3.0	5.5
79½	50½	Tarpus	57½	- ½	..	
145½	85½	Taylor Nelson	128	- ½	1.0	40.4
270	204	Television Cp	234	..	2.0	16.5
289½	183½	Tempus Gp	242½	..	2.3	17.1
1920	1549½	Thomson Corp	1972½	-2½	2.5	39.6
573	478	Trinity	508½	-1½	3.2	16.2
245	177	Ulster Tv	177½	..	4.0	16.4
953	632	**United Newst**	875	-5	2.7	19.1
115½	55½	VCI	55½	-6	17.8	4.1
127½	75½	VTR	75½	..	5.6	7.7
460	242	WPP†	455	-1½	0.5	29.9
203½	123½	Wilmington	198	..	[illegible]	35.6

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3440½	2298½	Ang Am Coal	2903½	+25	4.5	9.5
3553½	1953½	Ang Am	2254½	-129½	2.3	12.2
3366½	2062½	Ang Am Gold	2352½	-125	4.7	21.2
[illegible]	634½	Anglo Am Plat	775	..	2.7	28.5
3362½	2040½	Anglogold	2521½	-237½	5.7	15.2
22½	14½	Argyle Pac Gp	17½	..		
31½	27½	Azcon Intl	27½	..		
645½	411½	Asarco	477½	-12½	2.6	15.4
66½	28	Ashton	42½	-1	3.6	..
112	37½	Avocet	33	..		
187½	117	Billiton	132½	-3½	4.5	11.1
35	31½	Bowcn	32	- ½	3.5	12.5
20½	13	Burgundite	14	..		
299½	193	Central Pacific	207½	+ ½	..	
50	21½	Cons Murchison	33½	- ½	..	1.0
1609½	1021½	De Beers	1092½	-45½	4.2	8.0
435½	293½	Driefontein	299	-15½	3.3	12.0
225½	88	Durban	131½	-2½	..	
18½	10½	E Rand Prop	14½	- ½	..	24.3
273½	207	Eng China C	211	-1	7.7	9.8
168½	92	Exonder	133½	-2½	5.2	..
385½	92	FS Cons	242½	-5	12.4	8.1
71½	17	FS Dev	24½	..		
1103½	675	GFSA	768½	-3½	2.3	19.5
148½	85½	Gencor	106½	..	2.3	8.5
145½	89½	Gold Fields Prop	91	-2	5.2	12.2
41	14½	Greenwich R 'A'	15½	..		
356½	112½	Harmony	281½	..	..	8.2
795½	443½	Impala Plt	635	-9½	2.1	15.8
13½	9½	Kenmare Res	13	..		
33½	14	Kinston	19½	- ½	..	
363	239½	Lonrho	255½	-1½	7.5	11.3
11½	4½	Meekatharra	6½	..		
42	28½	MIM	29½	- ½	3.2	..
1175	706½	Minorco	778½	-9½	3.5	8.7
105	85	Montague	90	..	5.4	..
73½	46½	Normandy	49½	-2½	4.5	11.9
177½	114½	North	134½	-2	3.5	19.7
89	22½	Petaling Tin	22½	-7½	1.9	..
111	48½	RGC	73½	-1	5.1	4.0
170	80	RJB	132	..	16.9	1.7
29½	22½	Rackwood	23	..	17.9	4.9
195½	77½	Randfontein	135½	-6½	3.8	16.6
121½	62½	Reunion Mng	65	-1	..	
898	641	**Rio Tinto**	835	-3	4.6	13.7
871	660½	Rio Tinto Ltd	702½	-19	3.8	17.8
7	3½	St Barbara	3½	..		
191	120½	St Helena	140½	-3½	18.3	2.5
192½	138½	Sons Gwlfix	159½	-6	6.3	11.3
138½	74½	Sthern Pacific	87½	-1	..	
228½	162½	WMC	188½	- ½	2.4	24.5
27	11½	Wankie Col Z	11½	- ½	6.0	..
87½	29½	Waler Hall	39½	..	..	35.8
443	381½	Watts Blake	405	..	5.4	12.1
149	84½	Zambia Copper	95½	+7½	..	

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
221½	155½	Abbot Group	212	+1	1.5	27.4
32½	19½	Alliance Res#	32½	..		
64½	48½	Amlorg	48½	..		
77	50½	Aus Oil & Gas	68½	..	2.6	19.4
27½	9½	Arma Pal	10	..		
430	286	Br Borneo	322½	-1½	1.1	57.8
391	265	**BG**	366	+2½	2.7	34.8
972	708½	**Br Petroleumt**	863	-12	3.3	22.2
1½	0½	Bula Resources	1	..		
1340	895	Burmah Castrlt	1123	-2	3.6	16.5
498½	261½	Cairn Energy	278	-7	..	50.3
119	69	Dashrica	104½	+ ½	..	
14½	6	Coplex Res	7½	+ ½	..	
22½	15½	Dana Pet	15½	..		
72½	35½	Dragon Oil	37½	..		
26½	19	Edn Oil & Gs	22	..	1.7	16.0
10	5½	Emerald Energy	6½	..		
697	510	Enterprise	551	-4	3.9	28.8
14½	7½	Fortune	7½	..	..	29.6
294½	209½	Hardy Oil▲	215	-1	0.6	45.3
47½	31½	JKX Oil & Gas	34½	-1	..	
430	201	KBC Adv Tech	201½	-1½	2.0	17.8
305	220	LASMO	232½	-3½	1.0	62.4
42½	28½	Lasmo Units	31	..	27.2	
83	58½	Monument	56½	-2	..	20.1
3118½	2612½	Norsk Hydro	2796½	+21½	2.1	16.8
133½	87½	Oil Search	89½	-4½	..	
56½	33½	Perez	43½	+2½	..	
54½	37	Premier	43½	- ½	1.7	9.2
58	24½	Ribbercrest Rs	28	-1½	..	
449	331	Ranger	429	-4	4.6	7.5
3616½	3031½	Royal Dtch Fl	3259½	-9½	2.9	24.7
5143½	3971½	Schlumberger	4157½	..	1.1	..
435½	325	**Shell**	414½	-2½	3.5	23.3
395	303	Soco Int	365½	-2	..	22.1
2137½	[illegible]	Total	7503½	-52½	1.6	..
332½	187½	ICL	196	..		

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
134	87½	Aberdeen Asst	120½	..	4.1	45.5
775	467	**AMVESCAP**	680	+11	1.0	31.2
248½	120½	BvB	248½	-1	4.5	14.7
55½	42	Berry Bro	44½	..	5.6	..
294	240	Bisbech Inv	256½	-1½	..	
443	245½	Brewin Dolphin	435	..	2.7	21.2
975	725	Caledonia†	897½	..	2.9	36.6
4500	2800	Canelia	4500	..	1.0	10.3
683	393½	Cattles	651½	..	1.9	32.6
57½	37½	Cheshire	55	- ½	3.4	..
933	526½	Close Bros	814	+1½	2.0	23.7
612	433	EFM	570	-5	5.5	13.7
32½	20	Exco†	23	..	4.1	..
42½	19½	Fichners Ind	38½	- ½	2.1	21.8
219½	197	Friends Ivory Sime	202	..	4.5	17.9
486½	332	Gartmorit	400½	-1	5.3	11.9
194	154½	Hatcoras	177	..	1.8	64.3
272½	149½	Hawch Credt	252½	..	2.7	..
205	145	Investment Co.	205	..	2.8	..
177½	162½	Jersey Stat	178	+3½	7.4	9.0
164½	111½	Johnson Fry	139	-1½	3.6	..
643	570	Leopold J	637½	+2½	4.1	24.0
619½	462½	Liberty Intl	529½	+6	4.2	22.9
476½	251	Lon Forfaing	276½	+5	5.6	9.2
260½	169½	London Pacific	222	-8½	8.0	7.9
160	110½	Lon Scot Bnt	123	..	3.4	22.0
371½	232½	Man ED & F	371½	+3	4.0	14.4
1945	1407½	M & G	1652½	+17½	3.4	24.6
256	182½	Paragon†	226	..	1.5	8.9
4537½	2682½	Perpetual	4030	-5	2.1	24.6
1056	785	Provident	950	..	2.7	26.4
647½	400	Rathbone Bs	602½	..	2.9	24.2
69½	54½	Rea Brothers	58½	..	2.1	11.7
65	49½	Roland Tst	55½	..	3.8	12.5
107½	77	SEC Group	84	-1½	7.6	21.7
292	252	S & U	294	..	8.1	8.7
2925	1153½	**Schroders**▼	1675	+53	1.1	28.8
1775	1016½	Schroders N/V▼	1489	+126	1.3	25.7
795	618	Secure Tst Banking	765	+2½	3.8	75.5
185½	136½	Singer & Fried	153½	-3½	4.4	11.2
67½	48½	Towry Law	58½	..		
5½	3½	Trio Hldgs	5	- ½	..	
81	61½	Union	73½	- ½	..	
91	46½	Versailles Grpt	85	-1½	0.7	51.1
437½	397½	Waterco	420	..	4.1	17.4

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	27	Brit Biotech	31	+ ½	..	
380	225	Cantab Pharms	225	..		
387½	272½	Celltech	282½	..		
356½	230	Chiroscience	265½	+1½	..	
201½	70	Core Group	71	..		
208	84	Cortecs	87½	-1½	..	
1983	1650	**Glaxo Well**	1795	-18	2.2	39.0
240	182½	Goldshield	214	-1	0.7	19.0
135	75	ML Laboratories	85	..		
185	140	Medeva	171½	..	3.2	8.0
260	165	Oxford Molecular	173½	-4	..	
310	222	Peptide Thera	229	..		
114½	47½	Phytopharm	96	-2	..	
513½	194½	Powderject	407½	-5	..	
89½	38	Proteus Intl	39½	..		
72	52	Rancon (Ami)	54½	+2	6.4	..
181½	124½	Quadrant Health	133½	..		
394½	260	Scotia	305	-2½	..	
448½	285½	Shire Pharms	435	+6½	..	
103½	47½	SkyePharma	71	..		
888	618	**SmithKlineBeecht**	765½	-16½	1.5	37.1
223	132	Therp Anti Inc	134½	-2	..	
652½	282½	Vanguard	290	..		
132	30	Vanguard Wts	31½	..		
245	100	Xenova	130	..		
2850	2114	**Zeneca**	2403	-67	2.0	31.2

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
132	82	AG Holdings	132	..	5.9	19.5
645	520	API	575	-25	2.7	15.6
142	68½	App Holo	101	-3½	..	47.7
255	145½	App Wiggins	201½	+ ½	4.0	10.8
468½	428½	Benesse	428½	-1½	4.7	11.3
193½	144½	Blagden	162	..	2.2	10.4
3571½	2578½	Bowater Inc	3043½	-6½	..	
313½	233½	Bowmore Ind	256½	..	1.6	15.9
527	413½	Br Polythene	413½	-1½	6.1	10.0
348½	219½	Bund	300	-8½	2.3	17.1
168½	118½	Cassel Ins	150	..	5.1	15.4
261½	200½	Cropper (James)	205½	..	3.1	11.3
339	266½	De La Ruet	283½	..	4.9	10.9
274½	252½	Dolphin Pack	257½	-2	4.0	12.1
185	70	Ferguson Intl	85	..	6.6	..
132½	145½	Fitchs	155	..	3.3	16.2
90½	47½	Inercst	51½	..	14.6	27.9
229½	179½	Jarvis Porter	180	..	5.4	9.0
27	17½	LIBERAsia	17½	..	4.3	6.9
426	284	Low & Bonar	342	..	5.0	11.0
25½	10½	Lowe (Robert)	10½	- ½	5.1	4.0
92½	65½	MY Holdings	91½	..	3.8	12.3
177½	125½	Macfarlane	130	- ½	4.3	11.1
347½	213½	Photostaton	282½	-2½	0.6	46.8
187½	140½	Rysfrt	178	..	5.9	12.3
34	25	Porter Chadbm	28	+1½	4.1	8.2
320½	229	REXAM†	265½	+ ½	5.7	10.8
153½	157½	RPC	192	..	3.1	..
547½	455	St Ives Gp	510	..	2.9	15.3
410	217	Sappi	247½	-1½	2.7	..
68½	20	Security & General	25	-3	..	
122½	92½	Sidlaw	104½	-2½	3.0	12.0
253½	165½	Smurfit Dans	210	-5	4.8	13.1
243	156	Smurfit (Jeff)	179½	-3	2.5	..
162	105	Somict	110	..	3.8	10.8
215½	133½	Tinsley Robor	213½	..	2.0	18.1
43½	16	Wace	32½	-1	..	
307½	247½	Waddington†	291½	..	4.9	11.9
320½	223	Wyndeham	293	..	2.7	15.2

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	91	Allied Lon	91½	..	5.5	6.6
195	155½	Asda	168½	-2	2.2	22.3
35½	28½	Ashtenay Grp	30½	..	0.8	51.1
180½	135½	Asticenne Hldgs	165½	+ ½	3.8	25.5
278½	243½	Benchmark	245½	-3	2.4	23.8
298½	251½	Bllaort	251½	..	5.5	18.3
177½	149	Bdcly	167½	+2½	7.0	..
5½	3	Boton Gp	3½	..		
64	50½	Bourne End	50½	- ½	3.0	68.8
322½	232½	Bradford†	234½	-1	4.9	15.8
825	600	**Br Landt**	807½	-11	1.9	33.4
255	213	Brxdon	219½	-4½	5.3	17.8
132	100	Burford	105½	..	2.7	36.6
149	132	CLS Hldgs	139	..	5.2	16.6
318½	246½	Cap & Regnl	263	..	1.7	25.7
460	394½	Cap Shop Ctrs	494½	+ ½	2.9	26.4
355½	263½	Cardiff Propt	353½	..	1.1	49.9
19	9½	Carlsle	14½	+ ½	..	58.8
13½	6½	Cathay Intl	8	..		
351	313½	Chelsfield	319½	..	1.3	37.5
687½	590	Chesterfield†	597½	..	2.8	31.8
37	18	Chesterton Int	23½	..		
166½	139½	City Nth	140	..	2.0	40.9
53½	30½	City Site Ests	31½	..		
107	90	Clevelnd Tst†	91½	..	8.5	17.0
99½	82½	CNC Props	87½	..	4.7	9.1
264½	185½	Compco	263½	..	2.2	..
1710	1605	Daejan	1705	..	3.1	..
21	10½	Dares Estates	10½	..		
126½	95½	Debenham Tsn	105	..	4.3	..
163½	69½	Delancey Ests	116½	..	1.7	..
232½	192½	Dencora	222	..	2.6	14.4
598	552½	Derwent Valley	559	..	1.5	38.4
365	263	Development Sec	305	..	1.2	6.9
260½	172½	Edge Properties	210	..	..	22.4
430	410	Estates Agency	425	..	5.4	19.3
91½	75½	Estates Gen	80	..	1.2	20.6
178½	139½	Evans Of Leedst	143½	+ ½	3.3	19.5
44½	36½	Fletcher King	44½	+2	7.6	..
71½	61½	Folkes Group	70½	..	3.7	6.9
71½	57½	Folkes Group nv	69	..	3.8	6.7
540	460	Frogmore	461½	..	5.5	12.1
19	14½	Golden Land Inv	17	-1	..	
370	315	Grainger†	317½	..	3.0	15.2
296	230½	Gr Portlandt	244½	+1	4.8	24.5
209½	155	Grantchester	155	-3½	1.1	45.2
252½	214½	Greycoatt	217	-1½	0.9	34.9
152	104½	Hambro Cntyw	115½	+2½	3.2	7.5
537½	452	Hammerson	457½	+7	3.3	26.9
33½	22	Hampton Trust	26	+1	..	
692½	555	Helical Bart	662½	-2½	1.7	..
50	44½	Hemingway	45½	..	1.7	18.9
130½	68½	HK Land	73	- ½	10.1	7.6
350	200	Jermyn	350	+2½	2.1	..
183½	94	LSH	164½	..	3.4	10.6
113½	84½	Lands Imp	108½	..	5.6	..
1190	822½	**Land Secs**	986	-2	3.9	24.4
38½	31	Lon & Assoct	32½	..	3.5	13.5
141½	118½	Lon Merch Sect	128	..	5.2	17.2
650	509½	MEPC†	520	+3	3.6	20.9
119½	99½	MWB Group	104½	..	4.5	..
152	132	McKay Secs	141	..	3.9	19.9
97½	65½	Marlowe Mkt	95½	..	2.9	8.6
368	270	Milner Est	306	..	2.9	14.7
245½	202½	Minerva	245	..	0.8	..
38½	25	Moorfield Est	33	..	2.1	37.2
1900	1681½	Mountview†	1750	+25	3.4	..
169	148	Mucklow (A&J)	153½	..	5.6	17.1
49	31	OEM	40	..	..	79.0
74½	52½	ORB	59½	..	..	25.9
41½	31½	Olives Prop	39	..	1.9	24.3
727½	635	Peel	710	..	1.5	..
363	277	Pillar Propt	318½	..	2.3	59.7
13½	7	Probus Estates	7	..		
204½	160½	Quintaint	161½	-1	3.1	24.1
28½	24½	Raglant	25	..	6.5	11.0
36	24½	Regalant	25½	+ ½	5.2	11.8
202½	157½	Rugby Est	169½	..	1.9	15.3
81½	67½	St Modwen Prp	73½	+ ½	5.1	9.0
73	59	Savile Grdn	62½	..	6.0	23.7
149	111½	Smits	142½	+ ½	4.3	..
113	82	Scott Mat	98	+ ½	4.0	17.2
246	217	Stallesbury	218	- ½	1.3	51.0
414½	324½	Slough Estates	328½	+3	3.2	22.1
287½	242½	Smart (J)†	262½	..	4.7	9.8
130½	93	TBH	121½	..	1.8	..
203½	176½	Tops Ests	188½	..	1.6	..
118	94½	Town Centre	95	..	5.1	11.9
203½	149½	Trafford Park	184	+1	2.8	20.1
103½	82½	UA Lans	86	+1	4.8	..
278½	251½	Warner	261½	..	6.3	17.1
283	255	Warnford	263	..	3.8	16.0
110½	89	Wates▲	89	-2	..	41.1
453½	345½	Workspace Grpt	432½	-1	4.9	15.7

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	173	**ASDA Group**	207½	+2	2.2	19.7
81	58	Budgens	78½	- ½	2.6	..
80½	55½	Dairy Farm Intl	68½	- ½	5.4	12.4
212½	157	Fitmok	182	..	4.2	..
43½	35½	Frizzell	41½	..	5.9	..
184	95	Fyffest	148	..	1.8	17.3
2837½	1985	Greggs	2550	..	1.8	21.1
261	119	Iceland Group	216	+4½	3.1	14.6
301½	227½	Morrison (W)	284	+ ½	0.9	22.8
69	38	Park Foods	58	- ½	6.6	..
407½	330	**Safeway**†	382½	- ½	4.6	16.1
598½	370	**Sainsbury Jt**	544	+14	3.2	22.6
427	207½	Somerfield	424½	-1	3.4	36.5
327½	194½	T & S Stores	314	..	3.4	16.8
208	161½	**Tesco**▼	191	-2	2.5	22.2
293½	256½	Thorntons	263	-1½	2.9	20.8
626	505	Watsonl Philpt	542½	-1½	4.4	14.6

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	221½	Alexon	222½	..		
266	192½	Allders	198½	- ½	5.4	9.2
180	70½	Allied Carpets	74½	..	13.0	9.6
508	361½	Arcadia Groupt	413	-2½	3.2	14.8
883	390	Argos	633	..	3.6	19.4
41½	19½	Ashley (Laura)	20½	..		
216½	164½	Austin Reed	192½	..	6.1	19.7
[illegible]	137½	Beales	162½	..	3.9	10.3
193½	157	Beattie (J)	164½	..	7.4	10.7
[illegible]	119	Bentalls	119½	..	4.0	6.3
498½	253½	Blacks Leis	293½	-7½	2.4	..
146	109	Body Shop	142	..	3.5	13.0
[illegible]	662	**Boots**†	1015	-13	2.7	23.6
65½	30½	Brown & Jackson	61	-3½	..	16.4
469	317½	Brown (N)†	362½	..	3.6	19.8
505	[illegible]	Carpetright	375	-17	10.5	10.2
397	[illegible]	Church's Int	335	..	1.7	30.7
422½	369	Church	375	..	5.7	10.4
147½	65½	Clinton Cards	134½	..	2.8	14.0
272½	166½	Country Gens	193½	-1	7.2	14.1
432½	[illegible]	Courts Furnsh	365	..	1.5	13.5
587½	192½	DFS Furniture	195	..	9.5	7.9
433	301½	Debenhams	343	+13	1.4	14.9
628	453	Dixons Gp	540½	-6	3.0	14.6
59½	45½	Elec Boutique	56½	- ½	..	27.1
6	3	ERA Gp	5½	+ ½	..	
70½	36½	Essex Fcm	38½	..	12.5	6.9
209	145	Falkland Is	160	+1½	..	17.4
218½	162½	Fine Art Dev	189	..	5.5	14.7
356½	203½	Freed Earth	341	..	1.3	21.1
592½	455½	Flying Fhr US	567½	..	1.5	..
137½	95½	Formaster	108½	..	4.0	9.0
465	347½	French Conn	350	..	1.2	12.4
45½	34½	Geves	39½	..	3.6	24.6
333½	217½	Goldsmiths Gp	267½	-2½	3.7	13.1
147	114	Grampian Hdgt	115½	-1	7.6	11.1
918	700	**GUS**	758½	-1	3.4	17.1
297½	205½	Hamleys	208½	..	6.6	9.4
116½	75	Hampden Grp	82½	..	4.4	8.0
343½	223	Harveys Furn	224	-1½	5.2	..
221½	144½	Hse of Fraser	158½	-1½	4.9	17.6
171½	117½	Hughes (TJ)	166½	..	2.5	16.3
825½	437½	JJB Sports	340	-6	1.9	17.1
600½	354½	**Kingfisher**	474	-5	3.0	17.2
355	190	Liberty	210	..	0.5	
54½	25½	Limelight	50	..	..	..
141	56	MFI	64	..	10.1	9.1
654	489	**Marks Spencert**	537	+9½	3.3	18.4
57	35½	Merchant Retail†	47	- ½	1.3	19.7
291½	216½	Moss Bros	237½	..	3.2	15.2
169	143½	New Look	153	..	4.0	12.4
880	474	Next	504	-10	4.5	13.3
31	22½	Owen (C)▲	35	..		
512½	382½	Oakame Intl	415	-8½	5.3	13.3
85	31½	Partners	31½	-1½	6.1	
95½	79½	Partridge Fine	94½	..	7.0	7.3
29½	25½	QS Hldgs	27½	..		
320	218	Rosebys	220½	..	6.7	9.2
140½	85½	Save Group	101	-17½	8.9	10.9
66½	46½	Searst	54	..	7.3	18.2
52½	39	Signet Group	44	- ½		9.6
587½	389½	Smith WH	550	-10	3.6	
1310	1050	Sothebys	1280	+10	1.9	
394	216	Storehouse†	279	-12½	4.0	13.1
92	54½	Stylo	58	..	10.9	
249	140½	Thorn	244	- ½	7.1	14.7
127½	51½	Tie Rack†	53½	..	4.7	
3½	2½	Upton & South	2½	- ¼		24.2
355½	261½	Wickes	267½	+1	0.9	44.3
373½	280½	Wyevale	301½	-1	2.8	19.3

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
996½	535	AEA Tech†	996½	+14	1.2	
350	210	Abacus Recruit	275	..	0.7	18.9
205½	115	Acorn	119½	-5	..	
226½	152½	Aggreko	200½	..	2.4	26.9
122	68	Alpha Airprtst	93½	..	7.1	9.5
53	32½	Alphameric	42½	-1	..	
79	47	Amey Grp	69	-2	0.5	64.9
594½	362½	Amec WS†	551½	-1	7.8	..
214½	153½	BNB Res	155	-4	6.1	9.3
790	507½	BPP	762½	..	2.6	26.9
900	637½	BTG	875	-20	0.1	..
169½	105	Brandon Hire	141½	..	2.9	17.3
48½	17½	Bz Thornton	39	..		
132½	79½	Brooks Service	113½	-2	4.4	12.2
957½	568½	Business Post	905	+6	2.0	35.3
2005	756½	CMG	1985	..	0.2	..
972½	812½	Card Gp	892½	-17½	1.7	11.2
561½	311½	Capita Group	536½	-2½	0.5	..
12½	6½	Chemex	9½	..	2.7	15.1
922½	720	Computacenter	740½	..	0.3	37.4
262	212½	Corp Services▼	221½	..	3.3	16.2
37½	21½	Coutts Cnsltg	30	..	0.4	..
649	317½	DCS Gp	533	..	0.5	36.1
352½	180	Danka Bs Syst	184½	-4	2.1	19.4
459½	302	Davis Service	400	..	3.5	21.9
830	557½	Delphi	560	..	1.6	19.7
1350	682½	Diagonal	1305	..	0.2	..
27½	19	Eurocom	23	+ ½	10.8	4.6
100½	51½	EW Fact	94½	..	3.6	17.4
102½	51	El Data Prct	87	..	3.2	15.2
1950	927½	FI Group	1950	+107½	0.5	..
578	409	Guardian IT	557½	-6½	..	
455	337	Harvey Nash	415	..	1.4	31.2
1155	773	Hays	1035	+2	1.2	36.0
68	51½	High-PointRnd	52½	..		
325½	255½	Hogg Robinsont	271½	+1	5.1	18.1
1257½	515	JBA Hldgs	595	-7½	1.1	[illegible]
330	232½	Johnson Srvce	298½	-4	5.3	11.4
89½	40½	Kalamazoo	42½	-2½	..	
980	570	Kewill Syst	980	+7½	1.4	..
24½	13½	Laser-Scan	17½	..		
551	317½	Lavendon	500	+4	1.0	32.5
2070	1147½	Logica	1982½	-7½	0.6	57.2
806½	505	Lomax	750	..	1.2	46.7
238½	130½	Lyco Groupt	238	+1½	1.1	30.3
96½	42½	MDIS	89	..		
1422½	772½	MMT Comp	1205	-2½	1.3	31.7
164½	109½	MR Group	153½	..	3.2	20.3
355	320	Macro 4	465	..	6.9	13.4
342½	142½	Marlborough Int	310	..	..	56.2
94½	52½	Mentmore Abbey	93½	+3	1.4	..
721	430	Micro Focus	480	-20	..	30.2
137½	56	Microgen	109½	-20	5.7	..
3723	1825	**Misys**	3495	-95	0.5	58.5
336	230½	MITIE Gp	300½	-1	0.9	33.0
53½	51½	Nord Group	53½	..	3.7	12.1
65	41½	Orbst	60	..	3.3	13.7
780	480	PSD	485	..	2.2	18.7
862½	635	Parity	808½	+35½	0.8	38.7
395	240	Pegasus	375	..	2.5	12.9
278½	145	Penna	276	..	1.1	11.1
365	151	Photo-Me	336½	-5½	2.0	32.5
54½	35	Proudfoot	46½	+ ½	1.3	11.1
247½	160	RCO	200	..	9.6	35.6
340	218½	RPS Group	339	+8	1.8	27.9
53	25½	Radius	42	..	3.3	14.3
600	317½	Real Time	507½	..	1.9	..
151½	79	Rebust	140	-1½	1.9	25.1
193	119½	Reed Executive	160	..	2.3	8.6
199	162	Reliance Sec	190	..	4.5	16.8
461	265	**Rentokil Itl**	436	-17½	0.9	43.2
231½	152½	Ricardo Group	226½	..	3.6	28.5
576	375	Robert Walters	378½	+1	1.3	17.4
510	260	Rolfe & Nolan	330	..	..	55.3
382½	297½	Royalblue	337½	..	0.8	45.5
1805	825	Sage Gp	1687½	+22½	0.2	66.6
160	74	Sanderson†	146	-1	4.5	13.3
1026	551	Select App	1026	+10	0.4	44.0
849	368½	Serna Gp▼	775	-22	0.3	79.2
1440	868	Serco Gp	1397½	+9	0.6	58.5
199½	154½	Shanks & McEwan	184½	+2	2.8	29.6
927½	520	Sherwd Intl	922½	+2½	0.7	38.8
74	44	Simon Grp	59	..	1.4	15.6
61	33	Sketchley	34	-1	..	
320½	181½	Skillsgroup	296½	+7	1.8	27.2
493	335	Spring Gp	405½	..	1.3	56.5
136	103	Stat-Plus	126	..	11.2	12.5
275	92	Superscape VR	196	-10	..	
144½	85	Torex	133½	+5	2.2	22.3
3750	2250	Tyco Intl	3750	..	0.2	..
148½	86½	WSP Group	142½	+1	2.5	19.8
225	170	Warner Howrd	172½	..	8.7	7.7
332½	176	Waste Mgt Intl	330	..	..	77.9
499½	332½	Waste Recyg	469½	..	0.7	43.3
278½	199	Wholehead Mann	258½	..	3.7	..
97½	62½	White Young Grn	90	+1½	4.9	13.9
500	304	**Williams**	379	-7	4.2	19.5

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
858	411½	**BT**	782	-21½	3.1	22.7
2955	814½	COLT Telecom	2787½	+25	..	
840	467½	**Cable Wireless**	788	-15	1.6	35.6
855	264½	Cable&Wire Comm	643	+7	..	
1132½	252½	Energis	1000	-5	..	
397½	250	Euro Telecom	370	-5	1.0	..
308	77½	General Cable	296	-5	..	
137½	23	Ionica Group	50½	..		
742	239½	**Orange**	638	-32	..	
583	266½	Securicor	515	-18	0.4	49.6
200½	69½	TeleWest▼	186½	-4	..	
858	298	**Vodafone**†	784½	+6½	0.9	60.0

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
440	210	Air London	370	-10	2.4	20.8
357	193½	All Nippon Airt	198½	-1½	..	
518	330½	Arriva	366	-1½	4.6	10.4
388	282½	Assoc Br Ports	326½	-2	3.4	16.0
372	284½	Autologic	338	..	2.8	..
293½	166½	Avis Europe	285½	+ ½	1.3	28.4
731½	402½	**BAA**†	663½	-1	2.6	18.3
721	498	**Br Airwayst**	694	..	3.0	20.1
140½	90½	Clarkson (H)	102½	-1	4.9	11.6
192½	135½	Clydeport Ops	139½	..	3.6	..
465½	317½	Dartt	442½	..	2.1	..
82½	43½	Eurotunnel Utr	70½	-1	..	
456½	221½	Firstgroup	456½	+5	1.8	26.1
140	113	Fisher (James)	113	-4	3.5	8.6
692	580	Forth Ports	632½	-2½	2.9	15.4
92½	60	Frontline	70	..		
778	510	Go-Ahead	772½	-2½	1.4	18.5
601½	490	Goode Durrant	497½	-2½	2.7	14.7
498	305½	Helphire Grpt	486	-3½	0.3	44.0
1135	740	Irish Contl	1000	..	0.6	21.4
96½	74½	Jacobs	83	- ½	3.4	36.1
647½	490	Mersey Docks	564	..	3.2	21.6
203	138½	NFC†	164½	- ½	4.0	17.1
1118½	676	Natl Express	1116½	+47½	1.5	25.2
817½	582½	Ocean Group	754½	- ½	2.4	23.2
121½	92½	Ocean Wilson	108½	-1½	5.1	6.9
971	650	**P & O Dfd**	964	+5½	4.0	21.8
119½	107½	P & O 5.5%	109	..	8.3	..
515	344	Prtrs Rail	435	..	5.6	8.7
1553	571½	**Railtrack**	1522	+19	2.0	24.4
130	98	Salvesen (C)†	120	+1½	7.6	12.9
49	36	Seacon	43	..	3.6	32.6
296½	240	Seacope Ship	240	..	6.5	5.8
311½	180	Servisair	237½	..	2.8	19.1
1477½	765	**Stagecoach**	1353	-17	0.9	30.8
628	547½	Tiber & Brgn	592½	-4	3.7	15.5
330½	251	TDG	253½	+6½	8.0	17.1
116½	76½	Ugland	94	-1½	6.6	7.8
72½	39½	Utd Carriers	39½	..	11.1	10.4

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
967	780	Anglian†	882	-2	5.5	10.0
335	285	East Surrey†	290	..	5.2	..
1053½	907	Hyder†	982½	+12	5.4	10.1
128½	115½	Hyder Gn Prt	121½	..	8.1	..
775	660	Mid Kent Hdgs†	712½	-2½	5.8	9.2
1085	865	**Severn Trent**†	1040	+15	4.1	11.6
3675	3365	South Staff.	3592½	..	3.7	13.7
1026½	864½	South West†	1026½	+7½	5.0	12.9
1119	800	**Thames**†	1092	+26	4.4	12.2
950	658	**Utd Utilities**†	919½	+9½	4.8	11.3
550	452	Wessex†	457½	..	5.6	9.0
550	435½	Yorkshire†	462½	-1	5.5	9.5

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
235	193	Cafe Inns▼	197½	..	2.1	12.8
28	14½	Chorion†	20½	..		
39½	29	Freepages	38½	+ ½	..	
65½	45½	Megalomedia†	45½	..		
38	31½	Memory Corp	28½	+ ½	0.7	..
847½	620	Ramco Egy	682½	..		
847	740	Southern News	835	-4	3.1	16.3
94½	82½	Southern Vectis	82½	..	3.2	12.8

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100[illegible]	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	..	7.25	7.66
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	101[illegible]	[illegible]	15.26	7.59
104[illegible]	101½	Exch 12% 1998	101½	[illegible]	11.82	7.41
102[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	100[illegible] xd	[illegible]	9.41	7.52
106[illegible]	103[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	103¼	...	11.87	7.41
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	102½	[illegible]	10.24	7.38
99½	98½	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	..	6.07	7.21
106[illegible]	103¼	Conv 10¼% 1999	103¼	[illegible]	9.87	7.14
105[illegible]	102[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	102[illegible]	[illegible]	8.74	7.05
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	102[illegible]	[illegible]	7.80	6.81
103[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2000	102[illegible]	[illegible]	8.33	7.06
114[illegible]	110½	Treas 13% 2000	111[illegible] †	[illegible]	11.71	6.98
109[illegible]	107¼	Treas 10% 2001	107[illegible]	[illegible]	9.30	6.78
102¼	100[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	101[illegible]	[illegible]	6.91	6.56

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 7% 2002	102[illegible]	[illegible]	6.88	6.38
113[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	111[illegible]	[illegible]	8.72	6.43
109	105[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	107[illegible]	[illegible]	7.45	6.22
118[illegible]	115[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	116[illegible]	[illegible]	8.59	6.22
114[illegible]	110[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	111[illegible]	[illegible]	10.33	6.81
93[illegible]	90[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	92[illegible] xd	[illegible]	3.79	4.98
119[illegible]	116[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	117½	[illegible]	8.08	6.08
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	103[illegible]	[illegible]	6.49	5.99
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	114[illegible]	[illegible]	7.40	5.97
120[illegible]	117½	Conv 9½% 2005	118½	[illegible]	7.99	6.05
130[illegible]	127[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128[illegible]	[illegible]	9.74	6.19
111½	107[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	110½	[illegible]	6.79	5.90
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	111½	[illegible]	6.94	5.92
107[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	105[illegible]	[illegible]	7.57	6.42
123[illegible]	120[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121½	[illegible]	9.68	6.25
119[illegible]	115	Treas 8½% 2007	118½ †	[illegible]	7.20	5.77
111[illegible]	106[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	110½	[illegible]	6.56	5.78
126[illegible]	121[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	124½	[illegible]	7.22	5.77
120	113½	Treas 8% 2009	118[illegible]	[illegible]	6.74	5.71
106[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	104[illegible]	..	5.98	5.69
131½	124[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	129½ †	[illegible]	6.95	5.74
133½	125[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	131[illegible]	[illegible]	6.86	5.74
101[illegible]	90[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	99[illegible]	[illegible]	5.52	5.52
120[illegible]	112½	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	118[illegible]	[illegible]	6.53	5.78

LONGS (over 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
124[illegible]	116½	Treas 8% 2013	123	[illegible]	6.50	5.71
128[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	126	[illegible]	6.35	5.63
138[illegible]	127[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	136[illegible]	[illegible]	6.42	5.63
133½	121[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	131¼	[illegible]	6.10	5.56

UNDATED

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
63¼	55[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	62	[illegible]	5.64	
44[illegible]	38½	Treas 2½%	43[illegible]	[illegible]	5.79	
68¼	61[illegible]	Consols 4%	67[illegible]	[illegible]	5.90	..

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
199[illegible]	194[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	199[illegible]	[illegible]	2.90	3.31
198[illegible]	192[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	198	[illegible]	2.83	3.10
128	124[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	127[illegible]	[illegible]	2.73	2.95
217[illegible]	206[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	217[illegible] †	[illegible]	2.64	2.81
199[illegible]	187[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	199	[illegible]	2.61	2.74
210[illegible]	195[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	210[illegible]	[illegible]	2.56	2.70
176[illegible]	162[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	176[illegible]	[illegible]	2.54	2.64
193[illegible]	175½	Treas IL 2½% 2016	193[illegible]	[illegible]	2.53	2.61
190[illegible]	170[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	190[illegible]	[illegible]	2.52	2.59
167[illegible]	147[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	167[illegible] †	[illegible]	2.48	2.55
161	140[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	160[illegible]	[illegible]	2.45	2.51

هكذا من الأصل



HOT SEAT 28

Former rail chief has to uncouple the Sears chain

Sporting Occasion calls in receiver owing £400,000

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

ANOTHER corporate hospitality company has failed, blaming the unavailability of World Cup tickets. The Sporting Occasion has collapsed owing more than £400,000 to companies who had paid up to £2,500 per person to entertain their clients at the event.

The Sporting Occasion, set up in 1989, fell into receivership after its ticket supplier failed to deliver about 600 tickets, paid for five months ago. Liquidators have told the 40 creditors, some of whom are owed more than £10,000, that the company has insufficient funds to reimburse them.

Two other corporate entertainment companies, The Mall Corporate Events Ltd and International Championship Management, collapsed this week.

The Sporting Occasion offered cordon bleu catering, transport to the ground, five-star accommodation and, most importantly, tickets, at a cost of between £500 and £2,500 per person.

Richard Johnson, an account manager at John Warton Meals, Sevenoaks, described how the day before escorting his company's Scottish clients to the match between Scotland and Brazil, he received a fax saying the tickets were "not yet in hand". Unsure what this meant, and with Eurostar tickets and hotel rooms already paid for, Mr Johnson brought his clients to France, but was told by The Sporting Occasion an hour before the game that no tickets were available. They watched the match on a large screen outside the Stade de France.

Mr Johnson was promised a full refund within seven days. When he telephoned three weeks later the receivers answered.

The Sporting Occasion is one of the UK's smaller corporate hospitality companies, with a turnover of £500,000 last year. A creditors' meeting has been scheduled for July 21.

Winning streak, page 28



Donald Trump, the US property magnate, is still looking to restructure casino debts of $1.3 billion (£800 million) after agreeing a $320 million refinancing package

Treasury clamps down on investment bonds

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Treasury has cracked down on the £2 billion market for insurers selling guaranteed equity and income bonds. It argues that their use of complex derivatives increases the risk of investors losing their money and is in breach of European law.

The action is a serious blow to insurers such as Zurich Life, Royal Scottish Assurance and Eurolife that have sold about £2 billion of index-linked bonds since 1997, making them the industry's second biggest selling single premium product.

In its first move since taking over responsibility for insurers from the Department of Trade and Industry in January, the Treasury has imposed tight restrictions on guaranteed bonds backed by derivatives linked to more than one stock market index.

In the past four years more than 400,000 investors have bought index-linked guaranteed bonds as a low-risk way of getting respectable returns.

Guaranteed bonds are invested mostly in safe cash and fixed-interest deposits but spend a significant proportion on financial options linked to stock market indices to generate capital growth.

The first guaranteed bonds were simply linked to the FTSE 100. Provided the index did not fall over five years investors could be confident of getting the advertised returns and their money back, a sure bet in the bull market.

In recent years, however, insurers have sought to boost investors' returns by issuing bonds linked to two or more indices, putting the S&P 500, the Nikkei 225 and the German Dax and Swiss SMI indices alongside the FTSE 100. However, multi-indexing has come under attack for exposing investors to greater risk, as a fall in just one index can often trigger a capital loss. Last year the Institute of Actuaries, criticised insurers for not making these risks clear to investors.

The Treasury has also become concerned that the bonds are becoming increasingly sophisticated and ill-suited to the ordinary savers for whom they were originally designed.

Commentary 27

The Treasury's Insurance Directorate is also alarmed that the new breed of guaranteed bonds has broken regulations brought in by the European Third Life Directorate, which says insurers can only use derivatives as part of "efficient portfolio management" aimed at reducing investment risk.

In a letter sent to the managing directors of insurance companies on July 3 the Directorate argues that bonds that link their returns to the worst performing index breach the rules because there is "no alternative non-derivative strategy that they could use. As a result the options backing the bonds are inadmissable and the contracts are illegal.

A Treasury spokeswoman said the Directorate was "offering insurers appropriate regulatory concessions to stop the bonds being issued in future" but to allow bonds in existence or on the launch pad to go ahead.

She said the Treasury had refrained from declaring existing bonds illegal as investors would have been left with no redress in court. Although the fears about existing products were well founded, they were not yet overwhelming.

The Treasury is allowing insurers to continue classifying the derivatives they hold as assets so as not to affect their solvency figures.

A "buy now while stocks last" boom is likely as a result of the Treasury's action. Eurolife has just launched an extra income bond linked to UK, US and Swiss indices that offers 10 per cent annual income. The offer closes next month. Scottish Mutual has an 8 per cent income bond closing a week on Monday.

Unit trusts that use derivatives to protect investors have also been under fire this week. The rising cost of options has forced Legal & General to shelve one of its funds, compelling Barclays to defend its recently launched b2 account.

Trump's casinos sell-off attempt hit by slump

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

DONALD TRUMP has given up a year-long attempt to sell his troubled Atlantic City casinos after failing to find any buyers because of the slump in the gambling industry.

The property magnate agreed a $320 million (£196 million) refinancing package with Deutsche Bank that lowers his debt payments by 30 per cent and swaps junk bonds for a traditional mortgage.

Mr Trump is still looking to restructure the remaining casino debts of $1.3 billion. Deutsche Bank is said to be considering a second deal. A Trump spokesman said the bank was building a relationship with Trump Hotel & Casino Resorts.

The US subsidiary of Germany's biggest bank is still trying to break into Wall Street strongholds and has been one of the few banks prepared to deal with Mr Trump after his financial crisis from 1990 to 1992. Wall Street was forced to lower Mr Trump's personal debts from $1 billion to $115 million during that period.

Mr Trump's hotel business has recovered fully during the 1990s but the casinos have been hit by fierce competition. New casinos have driven down revenues, leaving Mr Trump yet again exposed to creditors demands. Another Trump refinancing package fell through last year.

He had officially put the casino company on the auction block in February, hiring Bear Stearns and DLJ. With customary hyperbole he said at the time: "This is a great time to make money for shareholders." Trump shares have fallen 30 per cent in the last year.

Bruce Turner, the Salomon Smith Barney analyst, said: "If anyone looks closely at the business conditions in Atlantic City, they yield a very challenging future. It makes it nearly impossible to find a buyer."

Atlantic City is America's second biggest gambling resort after Las Vegas. Mr Trump, who owns the Trump Taj Mahal, the Marina and the Trump Plaza, is the biggest casino operator in the New Jersey city.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5929.7	(-40.0)
Yield	2.77%	
FTSE All share	2787.48	(-15.32)
Nikkei	16090.06	(-356.89)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9049.87	(-39.91)*
S&P Composite	1154.10	(-4.46)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	107²⁹/₃₂*	(107²⁹/₃₂)
Yield	5.62%*	(5.61%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7¹¹/₁₆%	(7¹¹/₁₆%)
Lifte long gilt future (Sep)	109.11	(109.15)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6327*	(1.6320)
London:		
$	1.6323	(1.6304)
DM	2.9680	(2.9822)
FFr	9.9488	(9.9957)
SFr	2.5084	(2.5122)
Yen	230.11	(230.32)
£ Index	105.5	(105.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8190*	(1.8285)
FFr	6.0980*	(6.1305)
SFr	1.5386*	(1.5418)
Yen	141.02*	(141.18)
$ Index	113.5	(113.7)

Tokyo close Yen 141.33

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep) $13.35 ($13.30)

GOLD

London close $290.55 ($291.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Lobbying now worth £30m a year

THE business of lobbying Westminster is now worth about £30 million a year, with firms such as GJW Government Relations, GPC Market Access, Citigate Westminster and Westminster Strategy among the largest (Jason Nissé writes).

Companies as diverse as Tesco, Orange, GEC, British Airways and KPMG are clients, paying up to £100,000 a year, although surprisingly the lobbyists are also used by charities such as Shelter and government bodies, such as the Audit Commission.

Although the firms are careful not to promise direct access, some of the new kids on the lobbying block have grown up merely because of their links to the new Labour administration.

One of the firm's most exposed to the lobbying scandal is Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn, which recently split from Bell Pottinger, the firm headed by Lord Bell.

Cost of influence, page 26

Revenue gets tough with tardy taxpayers

BY CLARE STEWART

ABOUT 400,000 people have yet to file a self-assessment tax form some six months after they should have been returned. With a second key deadline looming at the end of July, anyone who fails to return the form faces further financial penalties.

The Inland Revenue sent out nine million forms last year. About 2.5 million taxpayers met the first deadline at the end of January, with a similar number expected to pay the second instalment of tax due on July 31.

Anyone who missed the first deadline will have been charged a £100 penalty. Failure to meet the July deadline will trigger a further £100 fine. If these penalties are not paid, interest on the amounts is charged at 9.5 per cent. Interest will also have been running since January 31 on unpaid tax.

To focus taxpayers' minds further on the issue, a surcharge of 5 per cent of the amount due is also applied. The Revenue's final flourish is to charge interest at 9.5 per cent on the surcharged amounts.

Weekend Money, page 55

NatWest's IT chief moves to new role

BY CHRIS AYRES

THE head of information technology at NatWest, which recently shut down up to 300 cash machines after software problems, has given up his position to become an "internal consultant" within the group.

The bank said yesterday that Achi Racov, chief information technology officer, had given up his position to become a consultant focused on research and development. Mr Racov's move comes amid a shake-up of NatWest's IT department.

Mr Racov's former title has been abolished and Jim Mann has become head of the bank's IT department with the title of director of group operations and technology. Both Mr Racov and Mr Mann will report to Bernard Horn, chief executive of group operations.

NatWest said that Mr Racov had given up his position of his own accord, and that his change of role was not related in any way to the recent high-profile IT problems.

A spokesman — who referred to Mr Racov as "a genius" — said everyone in the IT operation had taken some of the blame for the recent problems.

AWEEK IN THE CITY

It was a week in which airline alliances won approval and yet came no closer to taking off, and in which airports opened and largely failed to work. Two years after it was first mooted, the tie-up between British Airways and American Airlines won a conditional nod from Brussels, but remains at least a year away from becoming airborne. The first passengers to arrive at Hong Kong's new £12 billion airport at Chep Lap Kok were given certificates commemorating the great day, then spent hours waiting for their luggage to turn up.

Visitors will never again have to brave the white-knuckle ride into Kai Tak, with its swooping turns and splendid views of the Kowloon washing lines. Instead, they can look forward to fine views of the new terminal — from inside the aircraft, stuck on the runway — before plunging into a maelstrom of delayed baggage, dubious toilet facilities and suspect air conditioning. Like Heathrow, in other words. Exasperated freight handlers temporarily decamped back to Kai Tak, leaving mounds of decaying fruit and veg. Loss of face all round.

Draft proposals from Brussels calling on BA-American to surrender 267 slots at Heathrow and Gatwick met with a predictable reaction. BA said the terms were too harsh. Virgin said they were not harsh enough. American said it was a step in the right direction. The Department of Trade and Industry asked for suggestions as to how to make it all work — curious, given that they've had 25 months to think about it. No early curtain call for this long-running soap.

The week brought alliances of a different kind — namely the rather surprising news that the London and Frankfurt stock exchanges, usually at each others' throats, were contemplating climbing into bed together. Deutsche Börse and the London Stock Exchange hope to build a common trading platform for 300 blue chip stocks, paving the way for a pan-European stock exchange. Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency, was told it was definitely out of the loop on the National Lottery account, for which agencies have been invited to pitch again. The firm has been dropped from the shortlist of bidders and could even lose the account to its arch-rival M&C Saatchi, which is one of four firms still in with a chance.

Meanwhile, GTech, the US lottery supplier, admitted spending $1 million in legal fees defending its former chief Guy Snowden in the bloody libel clash with Richard Branson.

The Securities & Exchange Commission said it is to charge 100 traders on Nasdaq with market manipulation after a two-year investigation — one of the biggest in Wall Street history. The case turns on the alleged widening of spreads between bid and offer prices.

BMW followed through with its threat to cease supplying engines and components to Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, giving Volkswagen a year to come up with an alternative plan. Virgin Entertainment, Richard Branson's megastores-to-cinemas group, said it was buying Virgin Our Price from W H Smith for £145 million.

The Bank of England left interest rates on hold at 7.5 per cent: much to the relief of home-owners and exporters.

JON ASHWORTH

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TIM 11/7

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

Timon Day reports on the way business puts its case to politicians

Firms duck fallout over lobbying

DISCRETION is the name of the game in political lobbying, and some of Britain's biggest companies are aghast at the adverse publicity caused by the cash-for-access affair that has rocked the Government.

GJW Government Relations and rivals GPC Market Access are considered to be big enough to weather the storm. The same may not be true of Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn, the newest kid on the block, described as the hottest lobbying company in Britain because of its close connections with Labour politicians.

Several clients are expected to leave after the adverse publicity that LLM has attracted and some are returning to Bell Pottinger, from which LLM broke away last year. LLM poached Tesco, KPMG, the accountancy, and Orange, the mobile phone company, from Bell, together worth some £300,000 a year in fees. These and other LLM clients, such as charity Shelter and Anglian Water, are keen to avoid any fallout.

The reason they employ lobbyists or political consultants is to find out what is happening in Westminster and how it will affect their business. Companies lobby ministers, MPs and senior civil servants as well as their counterparts in Brussels to amend or head-off legislation that will adversely affect them.

Reputable lobbyists say they do not approach politicians direct. "We never say we know politicians," says Piers Pottinger, managing director of Bell Pottinger. "We put the client's case in the most effective manner in information sent to the right people. Our clients pay for our advice then talk direct to civil servants and ministers." Clients pay about £100,000 a year to be advised. Pottinger says MPs can be helpful on local issues. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, helped two big constituency firms in Yeovil. "Contrary to public opinion very little goes on behind closed doors at Westminster. It is only the special political advisers appointed by senior politicians such as Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's policy adviser, that can cause political embarrassment," said Pottinger.

Many company directors are naive about the workings of Government, and lobbyists can exploit their ignorance. Large companies such as British Aerospace, GEC, British Airways, Tesco, KPMG and British Petroleum all have their own internal public affairs departments. They employ outside consultants to "provide detached advice and a broader vision", says Michael Burrell, managing director of Westminster Strategy, one of the leading firms.

KPMG does a large amount of work with both local and national government and a large number of clients that want to do business with the Government. The accountant also does a lot of consultancy work for the Government as well as seconding staff. It spends less than £100,000 a year on outside lobbyists. Tesco employs LLM to monitor Hansard, committee hearings, HMSO publications and to provide a bi-weekly report on food issues.

British Airways has been up to its ears with politicians and civil servants on both sides of the Channel since it applied two years ago for permission to merge some of its flights with American Airlines. It employed Market Access, now part of Omnicom-owned GPC, until May when it switched to Brunswick.

COST OF ACCESS TO THE CORRIDORS OF POWER

Name	Billings	Clients
GJW Government Relations	£4m	Barclays, Boots, BAA, Lloyd's, Sainsburys, Vodafone
GPC Market Access	£3.5m	Centrica, BT, M&S, PowerGen, Siemens, NatWest
Citigate Westminster	£3m	Anglian Water, Virgin Rail, BSM
Westminster Strategy	£3m	FA Premier League, Safeway, Roche Products
Bell Pottinger	£2m	Nat Power, Philips, Scottish & Newcastle, P&O
Hill & Knowlton	£2m	The Paper Federation, Casino Association

Travers to sue Cortecs for £1.5m

BY PAUL DURMAN

GLEN TRAVERS, the Australian entrepreneur who was ousted as chairman of Cortecs last month, is suing the drug development company for compensation of £1.5 million.

A Cortecs spokesman said Mr Travers was claiming for two years of salary and benefits. Last year's annual report shows Mr Travers to have earned £398,000, including a £150,000 bonus and £31,015 in benefits. Cortecs said the claim was unjustified and it would contest the proceedings.

While Cortecs says he resigned, Mr Travers claims he was sacked and that his departure was announced to the stock market while he was still consulting his lawyers.

Mr Travers has severed his remaining connections with the company he built up by resigning his directorships, which he had retained after giving up his executive duties.

Cortecs shares have collapsed from almost 200p in January to 87½p at yesterday's close.

Sainsbury's ends family connection

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

LORD SAINSBURY of Turville yesterday bade a cheery farewell to shareholders of the company founded by his great grandfather. He was able to deliver upbeat news on trading and seemed unable to hide his relief at vacating the chair he has occupied for six turbulent years.

In his address to the annual meeting the last member of the family still working for J Sainsbury said that same-store sales in the 17 weeks to July 4 were 3.8 per cent higher than a year ago.

This was better than the market had been anticipating, and sent the company's shares 14p higher to 544p. Homebase sales were 5.1 per cent ahead.

A handful of tributes were delivered by shareholders along with the usual mish-mash of complaints about underweight packages of chorizo sausages and the unavailability of hand-rolled porridge oats in some branches.

Derek Higg, chairman of Prudential Portfolio Managers, paid tribute as one of the company's major shareholders. He said: "We look forward to see you marching on a wider stage." He also thanked the former David Sainsbury, who will hand over the chair to Sir George Bull in September and concentrate on being a working Labour peer, for "35 years of unswerving commitment" to the company.

During Lord Sainsbury's chairmanship, the chain has lost the market leadership to Tesco and had to issue a series of profit warnings as it struggled to regroup. In May, when he announced his retirement, he was also able to announce a return to profit growth.

Another shareholder wished him "a succesful and long retirement," adding, somewhat unnecessarily to the company's largest shareholder and one of the richest men in Britain: "I hope your company pension will keep you happy." Lord Sainsbury replied: "I did think I might draw a bit on my dividends to keep me going."



Checking out: Lord Sainsbury, retiring as chairman

Japanese poll fears hit Asian markets

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ASIAN markets came under renewed attack yesterday as worries about the yen resurfaced ahead of crucial Japanese elections.

Traders fear that a poor showing by Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party in tomorrow's Upper House elections could derail economic reform moves and even force Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, from office.

The yen slipped further below the psychologically important 140 level against the dollar to settle at 141.30 in European trading. Traders said a poor performance by the LDP could send the yen sharply lower early next week. The Nikkei index slipped 356.89, or 2.17 per cent, to 16,090.06 on election worries.

The Japanese jitters spread to other markets in the region, with those in Hong Kong and South Korea sliding by almost 3 per cent. In Malaysia, shares slumped 4 per cent to their lowest levels in nine years amid rumours that the Renong construction company is close to collapse.



MAGAZINE
Eminism: whether naked in the art studio or drunk in the TV studio. Tracey Emin knows how to make an exhibition of herself

STYLE
Menswear: AA Gill mingles in Milan and finds it's calf-length trousers, skimpy pants and pop socks for the man of fashion

CULTURE
Icons: when Grace Kelly epitomised blondes they were goddesses . . . Bryan Appleyard wants Hitchcock back

THE ULTIMATE
Football: Alex Ferguson and Hugh McIlvanney analyse the Final clash, between Brazil and France

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

GEC and Italians in £1bn radar joint venture

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE British and Italian defence industries stepped into a closer alliance yesterday with an agreement between GEC and Finmeccanica to combine their land and naval radar businesses and to form a joint venture.

The joint venture, which was mooted a year ago, will combine certain assets of GEC-Marconi and Alenia Difesa in a 50:50 joint venture with annual sales approaching £1 billion.

Alenia Marconi Systems, as the merged entity is to be called, will have combined operating profits of £107 million and net assets of £199 million.

GEC said yesterday that the agreement would be followed by discussions over establishing a cross shareholding in GEC-Marconi's guns and armoured vehicles division and Finmeccanica's avionics systems division.

The GEC-Alenia tie-up follows an agreement last April between Westland and Finmeccanica, which saw the merging of the helicopter interests of Agusta with Westland, the company based in Yeovil.

The chief executive of Alenia Marconi Systems will be Peter Brown, currently the managing director of GEC-Marconi Radar & Defence, while the organisation will be charied by Pierfrancesco Guarguaglini, the current president of Alenai Difesa.

However, the two positions will be held alternately by the two shareholders, a move that reflects the two company's desire to present the deal as a marriage of equals.

Lord Simpson, the chairman of GEC, said: "The joint venture represents a significant step in the restructuring of the European defence electronics industry."

Shield warns of higher R&D costs

BY PAUL DURMAN

AN INCREASE in spending on the development of heart disease and other medical tests will push Shield Diagnostics into loss, the Dundee company said yesterday.

Shield, a favourite with private investors because of the potential of its test for predicting the risk of heart attacks, was reporting annual operating profits of £161,000, reversing a £1.33 million loss in the previous year.

With a £200,000 profit from the sale of its neonatal business, it made a pre-tax profit of £362,000 against a £1.4 million loss last time.

Shield is developing its heart disease test, recently branded as Afecta, to work with instruments sold by Abbott Diagnostics, the company's much larger distribution partner.

The company is also in negotiations with a second marketing partner.

David Evans, chief executive, said Afecta would not be launched until the fourth quarter of next year.

Later this year it intends to launch a complementary test based on homocysteine, an amino acid found in the blood which is another risk indicator of heart disease.

Shield's sales have grown to £7.4 million from £5.75 million — £2.5 million of this is from autoimmune tests and £2.8 million from infectious disease tests, a highly competitive area.

Tempus, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Monument-Mobil win Turkmenistan rights

MONUMENT Oil & Gas and Mobil have secured rights over a billion barrel oilfield in Turkmenistan. The UK exploration group and the US major have signed a production sharing contract with the Turkmenistan Government and the state oil company over the Garashsyzlyk concession, a 4,500 square kilometre area onshore adjacent to Monument's Nebit Dag concession.

Tim Eggar, Monument's chief executive, said that significant reserves had been discovered at depths below Kotur Tepe and Barsa Gelmes, two fields in production within the concession. The additional reserves were discovered in the 1960s but were never developed because of inadequate technology. Sources close to the two companies believe that Garashsyzlyk has the potential for 1 billion barrels of recoverable oil. Monument has a 27.6 per cent interest while Mobil holds 52.4 per cent. Monument is exporting oil from Turkmenistan under a swap agreement with Iran. Mobil has sought US Government permission to emulate Monument's deal. Production is expected to climb from 15,000 bpd to 26,000 bpd by the year end.

Forest director leaves

NOTTINGHAM FOREST, the football club recently promoted to the Premiership has lost its finance director to the stage. Duncan Reid, who sorted out the company's finances prior to its £25 million flotation, has left after only 15 months to start work on a London theatrical production. Philip Soar, chief executive, said he could not disclose which production Mr Reid had joined until he announced it to the Arts world. Before joining Forest, Mr Reid was finance director of Lord Lloyd-Webber's Really Useful Theatre Company.

Pakistan shares dive

PANIC selling has sent share prices sharply down in Pakistan as investors fear that Western sanctions over the country's nuclear weapons tests will force the Government to declare a moratorium on foreign currency debt. The Karachi Stock Exchange 100 share index fell a further 6.7 per cent to 777.26 yesterday, a fall of 14 per cent in three days. The KSE 100 has lost half its value since May 1. The latest slide followed measures by the State Bank of Pakistan to save foreign exchange reserves.

Ryanair lists in London

RYANAIR, the low-cost carrier based in the Republic of Ireland, has come to the London stock market via a placing of 21 million ordinary shares at Ir£5.50 a share. The issue was more than five times oversubscribed. The funds will go towards 25 Boeing 737-800 aircraft, due for delivery from 1999. Key Ryanair shareholders, including members of the Ryan family and Michael O'Leary, the chief executive, intend to sell a further Ir£50 million (£43 million) in shares, representing 6 per cent of the company.

Bloodstock warning

SHARES in The British Bloodstock Agency, which buys, sells, insures and transports horses, fell 3½p to 86½p after the group warned the stock market that weaknesses in its East Asian markets remained a concern. The announcement came on the back of pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 up 34 per cent to £404,000 (£302,000). Earnings per share were up 31 per cent to 7.6p (5.8p) on turnover of £6.7 million, up 3 per cent on last year. The total dividend has been set at 2.5p, up 25 per cent on last year.

Body Shop goes Dutch

A DUTCH investment house has emerged as the second-largest shareholder in Body Shop, the troubled toiletries company founded by Anita Roddick. The company said Inter-Him NV has built up a 3.9 per cent stake worth £10.8 million. It is understood that Body Shop discovered Inter-Him's holding by tracing the overall beneficiary of a number of smaller shareholdings. The disclosure comes two months after Trimark, a Canadian fund manager, emerged as the largest single shareholder with 4.8 per cent.

Prism beats forecast

PRISM LEISURE, the computer games group which issued a profit warning in September, reported pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 down 70 per cent at £832,000, about £100,000 above City forecasts. Earnings per share are down 72 per cent at 6p (20.9p) on turnover of £31.1 million (£29.1 million). A final dividend of 5p (5.46p) gives a total of 6.38p (7.19p). Geoff Young, the chairman, said: "The core business remains sound and if the critical Christmas period does not let us down, I feel a better year is in prospect."

Microgen disappoints

SHARES in Microgen Holdings, the archive services company, fell 15 per cent to 110p after the company said pre-tax profits for the six months to April 30 were down 69 per cent to £1.29 million (£4.21 million), reducing earnings per share to 0.4p (6.9p). It said it planned a strategic review of operations following the appointment as chief executive of Martyn Ratcliff, the former head of non-US operations at Dell. Douglas Lee, the chairman, said operations outside the UK were "maintaining steady progress".

Flare share placing

FLARE GROUP, the troubled ceramics manufacturer, is raising £8 million through a share placing to pay off existing debts and create capital for future development. The company, which has seen its share price fall from 115p to 16½p in the past nine months, is issuing 53 million new shares at 15p each on the basis of 17 new shares for every 10 shares held. The company is also capitalising £950,000 of debt. The capital restructuring will reduce the nominal value of the shares from 25p to 5p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.74	2.67
Austria Sch	21.88	20.22
Belgium Fr	64.38	59.42
Canada $	2.535	2.347
Cyprus Cypf	0.912	0.841
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.00
Egypt Pound	5.77	5.16
Finland Mkk	9.57	8.82
France Fr	10.41	9.63
Germany Dm	3.13	2.89
Greece Dr	518	479
Hong Kong $	13.48	12.28
Iceland	129	109
Ireland Pt	1.23	1.14
Israel Shk	6.36	5.70
Italy Lira	3099	2862
Japan Yen	244.40	226.87
Malta	0.682	0.623
Netherlds Gld	3.535	3.240
New Zealand $	3.31	3.07
Norway Kr	13.18	12.24
Portugal Esc	316.19	294.18
S Africa Rd	11.06	10.12
Spain Pta	263.23	244.44
Sweden Kr	13.87	12.87
Switzerland Fr	2.68	2.44
Turkey Lira	459880	424002
USA $	1.739	1.596

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Not so long ago the bowler-hatted men at the Stock Exchange saw Europe as a place to visit for holidays, not somewhere to do business. Even during the 1980s, anyone claiming the London stock market might team up with a European bourse would have been treated as touched in the head . . ."

How Frankfurt and the City came together. The Sunday Times tomorrow

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Too clever by half

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Guaranteed equity and income bonds have become a sophisticated investment sold to unsophisticated investors. There is no more dangerous combination, no more fertile ground for misselling nor any combination more likely to end in tears.

Retired people with modest pensions, in particular, desperately need reliable investments yielding a high net income. Yields on long-term government bonds have fallen right down to about 5¾ per cent. That is why higher incomes are harder to come by without taking higher risks.

As the Institute of Actuaries noted, those marketing some of the newer "guaranteed" bonds have not made these rising risks clear. The Treasury, now responsible for regulating life assurance compoanies such as those issuing the bonds, has understandably opted to turn off the tap before the tide of sales turns into a more dangerous torrent.

The use of derivatives has certainly provided a good deal for many investors in the past. Option contracts allowed the cash return on safe investments to be topped up by converting the seemingly inevitable medium-term rise in, say, the FTSE 100 index into distributable funds.

The risk was not in the derivative contract itself, but in the possibility that the share index might not perform. So far it has. The higher the index has risen and the more the income has to be topped up, however, the greater the risk, often measured by the cost of the derivatives contract. This is already undermining guaranteed unit trust investments, because the cost of protection is rising as the dividend income used to buy that protection is falling.

Equity and income bonds have diversified, tying their conditional money back guarantees to a variety of share indeces from New York to Zürich. This multiplies the risk of capital loss rather than just spreading it, as unsophisticated investors might think. One weak link can cost an unwitting risk-taker dear.

There is nothing wrong with such complex multi-index-linked bonds, so long as those who buy them understand the risks they are taking for much-needed income. They are certainly a better proposition than putting your money into loans to dodgy borrowers, where high interest rates reflect the unknown but dire risk of default.

For that reason, the remaining bond offers that pre-date the Treasury ban may find a readier market than they hoped for on the basis of "buy now while stocks last". That illustrates why it is usually far better to make sure all risks are properly and prominently disclosed than to ban a legitimate investment.

The Treasury has opted for safety first, citing a claimed technical breach of EU life assurance regulations to justify its nanny-knows-best approach. That is no doubt instinctive in the Treasury of Gordon Brown and Helen Liddell. In this case, given the target market, nanny is probably right.

Fired up over Fired Earth

You will be excused for having let the takeover bid for Fired Earth, a retailer of ceramic tiles to the Aga classes, pass you by. The bid values the company at only £20 million, has agreement from the board and a majority of the shareholders, and if it succeeds, as seems almost inevitable, it will involve the company moving off the Stock Exchange.

But minority shareholders in this company are left in an invidious position. The bid has come about largely because Nicholas Kneale, the current chairman and founder, has a controlling 50.5 per cent stake. Not unreasonably after nearly ten years on the market and fifteen years at the helm, he wants to reduce his holding to take out some of his hard earned cash. He also wants to spend less time on corporate issues and go back to what he enjoys, finding small-time tile manufacturers in jungle clearings in the back of beyond. Added impetus to go private comes because Mr Kneale has become disillusioned with public life.

But Mr Kneale's wishes lie uneasily with the principle of treating all shareholders in any public company the same. Legitimate questions are being raised about whether the present bid serves the interests of all shareholders, rather than those of Mr Kneale.

The fears are heightened because current management, led by Mr Kneale, are being allowed to maintain an equity investment in the business after the takeover, which is backed by PPM Ventures, the private equity arm of the Pru. Minority shareholders, however, are not being given the opportunity to retain equity interest. Is this fair?

Some minority shareholders may not care. With recession looming, and Fired Earth operating in a market which is ultra-sensitive to downturn, they may be more than happy to take cash equivalent to 21 times last year's earnings.

Others, however, are not happy. They point to a strong upward trend in profits in recent years. They have faith in the long-term potential of Fired Earth. They feel sold short by the price at which the takeover is pitched, and by the fact that they are not being given the chance to stay in.

PPM is clearly confident about the prospects, and Mr Kneale is keeping some of his money in the business. It leaves an unpleasant taste that current minority shareholders, who have backed the company thus far, are not be offered the option of extending the relationship.

Better routes than via the lobby

If leading firms have been paying callow youths on the promise that they can provide access to ministers, they have been shelling out their shareholders' money quite unnecessarily. The one thing that has been clear about this Government from its first days in office is its almost touching admiration of and enthusiasm for senior business figures.

Ministers have been happy to hob-nob with chief executives but much less enthusiastic about spending time listening to the sometimes less glamorous individuals who can speak on behalf of entire industries. In the early days of this administration, the chaps at the head of trade associations were brushed aside as mere bureaucrats who could be left to the civil servants rather than the politicians and there is still a preference for talking to the stars of industry rather than their employees.

Companies that are seriously interested in getting a case across to our political masters should not be gulled into thinking that a direct route to the Minister is the only way. Effective lobbying goes rather deeper than that. Those who are really skilled in the art of what they choose to dub "public affairs" know that the public and even the press can be effectively mobilised to reach the politicians. One of the most successful industrial campaigns of recent times must have been the movement by retailers to have restrictions lifted on Sunday trading. That campaign went far beyond Parliament and out into the country until the clamour become so loud that vote-conscious MPs heard it.

Price check

AS HE bowed out of the family firm to concentrate on being a working peer, the latest Lord Sainsbury's demeanour indicated what had long been suspected: politics, not groceries are his real love. But his cheer must have benefited from knowing that the day's rise in the Sainsbury share price could be attributed to news that sales are moving in the right direction and not that the dynastic reign has finally come to an end.

Eurocamp to take over rival

By Martin Barrow

EUROCAMP, the campsite holiday company, is taking over one of its biggest competitors with a £34.7 million agreed bid for Baldwin, owner of the Keycamps holiday business.

The deal will consolidate Eurocamp's position as the biggest company of its kind in Europe, with 15,000 luxury tents and mobile homes across the Continent.

Eurocamp is offering a mixture of cash and shares, which values each Baldwin share at 182p. There is a full cash alternative worth 175p a share. Yesterday Baldwin shares rose 45p to 170p on news of the bid.

Eurocamp has secured acceptances in respect of 66.5 per cent of Baldwin's shares. The terms have been endorsed by Ong Beng Seng, the Singaporean businessman who holds 29 per cent of the company. He is a prominent investor in the Canary Riverside residential and leisure development at Canary Wharf in London.



Robert Baddeley, left, Eurocamp financial director, and Richard Atkinson, chief executive

Eurocamp proposes to sell Baldwin's restaurants division, which includes Simpsons of Cornhill. The company has given Tan Sin Bin, a Malaysian businessman, six weeks to put in an offer for Baldwin's non-tour operating interests.

Eurocamp's move follows a sharp fall in the company's shares from about 315p in May, amid concern about the strength of demand for camp holidays. Yesterday the shares fell 3p to 240p.

Albright warns of slowdown

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the chemicals group that makes surfactants and phosphates for the leading soap companies, warned the market yesterday that it was being hit by a slowdown in developing countries and by the strength of sterling (Carl Mortished writes).

Shares in the company, which was spun off by Tenneco, the US conglomerate in 1995, fell 15p to 130p yesterday when the company reported that progress towards its margin targets had become more difficult.

Volumes and margins at Albright's surfactants business have improved but the company's phosphate activities are suffering from the effects of currency movements both in Europe and Asia. Tempus, page 29

New chief for Azlan as talks are aborted

By Chris Ayres

PETER BERTRAM, the finance director of Azlan who helped to uncover a £30 million black hole in the computer distribution company's accounts, was yesterday appointed chief executive.

The company made the announcement as it disclosed that takeover talks — thought to be with the US computer giant CHS — had been aborted. Azlan said it was possible that they may reopen, but added that the proposals made had not been in shareholders' long-term interests. Shares in Azlan fell 4½p to 59p, down from a high two years ago of 287p.

Mr Bertram will succeed Barrie Morgans, the former head of IBM UK who temporarily became chairman and chief executive of the troubled company after the black hole was uncovered. Mr Morgans, 57, said yesterday: "I retired from IBM to get more relaxing roles. Then the whole thing fell apart and I became the man on the spot."

Azlan is still under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, which will report in autumn, although all the employees involved in the accounting debacle have now left the company without payoffs or bonuses. Bob Contreras, group financial controller, will temporarily become finance director.

Mr Morgans said Azlan's business, based on distributing computers to small resellers and providing training services, was recovering well.

Energy to be fined for default

THE ENERGY GROUP, the US-owned business which runs Eastern Electricity, will face substantial fines after suddenly pulling out of a $170 million (£103 million) Taiwan power station investment (Christine Buckley writes).

A spokeswoman would not elaborate yesterday except to say: "Sometimes these things happen in joint ventures."

The group will incur penalties for leaving the project in which it was to have had a 30 per cent stake, as well as fines for failing to start selling electricity to the state-run Taiwan Power Company. The group joined the project six months ago, and the joint venture had been due to start selling power on June 30.

Exco unveils merger plan with Intercapital

By Rachel Bridge

EXCO, the troubled money and securities broker, put an end to speculation about its future yesterday when it unveiled plans to merge with Intercapital, the London derivatives company.

The merger, which is in effect a reverse takeover by Intercapital, follows four years of sharply declining fortunes at Exco which has seen its market capitalisation dive from £215 million at the time of its flotation in 1994 to just £28 million and its share price drop from 175p to 23p.

During the same period Exco's pre-tax profits fell from £43.5 million in 1994 to a loss of £3.1 million last year, accompanied by office closures, job cuts and exceptional charges as the company suffered from intense competition in the industry exacerbated by the introduction of electronic trading.

Michael Spencer, the Intercapital chairman who will become chairman and chief executive of the enlarged group, said: "The boards of Exco and Intercapital believe that there is strong logic for the proposed merger. The two businesses are complementary and the proposed merger will create a leading global broking entity providing multi-product services to its international customer base."

Exco was forced to reveal the proposed merger plans earlier than planned after a burst of intense trading activity in its shares over the past few days. The shares will remain suspended at 23p until full details of the merger are revealed.

Under the proposals Exco will be acquired by Intercapital's broking operations — which are separate from City Index, its spread betting business — in exchange for the issue of new ordinary shares in Exco, representing about 60 per cent of Exco's enlarged share capital. The new company, which will trade as Exco-Intercapital, will have a value of about £70 million based on Exco's current share price.

Exco's shares were more than three times oversubscribed when the company came to market four years ago but apart from a short-lived rise immediately after the float have never regained their float price of 175p. Rothschild, the investment bank which handled the float, will also act as advisers to the merger.

The Cayser family, which through its investment vehicle Caledonia Investments is Exco's largest shareholder with a 28 per cent stake, yesterday welcomed the proposed merger although said it had not yet decided what to do with its share of the company.

Sir David Kinloch, deputy chairman of Caledonia, said: "We welcome the prospect of this merger. Exco is a business which has had a difficult time of late and we see this as enabling it to move ahead in the future because it will have access to successful management and be able to offer a broader range of products."

Vox humana

LIAM KANE, the man charged with ushering in the 21st century as chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, is not enjoying new technology.

The former newspaper man — he ran both the *Herald* and the *Daily Record* in Scotland — has not taken to the Dome's voicemail system. "It was almost impossible to have the phone answered by a human being," he tells me. "I said it should be turned off during working hours."

Try calling him after after the watershed, and you'll now hear a message with a rather doleful Mr Kane saying: "I hope you survive the voicemail system."

WHEN he was creating the world's second-largest insurance broker ten years ago, Patrick Ryan, the Irish American, wanted a distinctive new name and was delighted when Celtic experts came up with Aon, which conveys unity. After absorbing the likes of Alexander & Alexander and Minet, however, he has been forced to admit that most people outside insurance still have no idea what Aon is. Watch out for a $10 million name awareness campaign that will make Aon rather an expensive brainwave.

Brief flame

THE departure this week of Richard Furse as chief executive of Ronson, the lighter maker, should have come as no suprise given the revolving doors since Albion, the investment group, took a big stake two years years.

Howard Hodgson, the former funeral director, lasted nine months before being ousted in favour of David Klipsham, once of Sony. He held the reins for five months before handing over to ex-Guinness man Sean Dowling, who kept the seat warm for four months before bringing in Mr Furse, a former merchant banker with Barings. Now Victor Kiam of Remington Shavers fame has taken charge. Any bets on how long he will stay?

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Booking out

THE mooted sale of Credit Foncier de France caused a typically Gallic stir earlier this week when it emerged that this could propel the company that administers the Eiffel Tower into US hands. What few realise is that Credit Foncier also owns another famous Parisian landmark, the Ritz.

The hotel, part of Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed's empire, has leased the property from Credit Foncier since the troubled bank came into existence in 1910. There is no suggestion that anything will change, although I suspect most Parisians would be rather less concerned about Mr Al Fayed than the City's most famous tourist attraction.

Table talk

THE latest name tipped to bid for Pierre Victoire, the failed French bistro chain, is Peter Webber, the former head of the My Kinda Town restaurant chain (now owned by Capital Radio).

A spokesman for Grant Thornton, the receiver, declines to name names, but admits: "We're down to four or five parties and we hope to sort something out in the next couple of weeks."

Of those previously mooted, Perfect Pizza, Queensborough Holdings and City Centre Restaurants have all decided against bidding, although Wimpy, the burger chain, is still thought to be keen.

However, one restaurateur who looked at the company said: "The business is in a complete mess. I wouldnt give them tuppence for it."

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Business is good, but **Matthew Barbour** finds there is still no such thing as a free lunch

A winning streak for corporate hospitality

To some combining the World Cup final with the British Grand Prix means a great day in front of the telly. To others it means something completely different. Apart from the billions of pounds generated in the public domain, it is estimated that on Sunday some £40 million will have been spent on corporate hospitality, more than any other weekend in European history.

Wayne Moss, of the organiser Jarvis Woodhouse, said the total corporate hospitality market in turnover terms is now far bigger than ever before, even the heady late 1980s before the recession kicked in. But the belt tightening of the early 1990s has changed the nature of that spending.

"Corporate hospitality now has to justify its existence in a company's marketing budget," he said. "Certain multinational companies can still afford to blindly throw money at events such as these, but realistic packages are now much more focused and target specific audiences. In the past, companies might have organised golfing days because the chief executive of the company paying for the package enjoyed golf. Nowadays you can't spend £40,000 at Silverstone or Wimbledon or wherever unless you can show what happened last time."

Eddie Hoare of a rival firm, Elegant Days, and a director at the Corporate Hospitality Association, said that companies were now spending much more time researching how to create the relationships they wanted with their clients before signing cheques.

"The best indicator of how successful corporate hospitality packages are is often the take-up rate. We've had instances of companies who pull out at the last moment because their clients say they're too busy. Money isn't really the issue."

David Dower, of Total Research, said that studies in the past had indicated that senior executives at most major firms received between ten and twelve invitations a year, but only expected to be able to attend three to four.

"Pressure of work and sheer numbers of invitations mean that most chief executives can literally pick which events they want to go to," he said.

Mr Hoare explained how some of Elegant Days's more off-the-wall packages had proved most popular. "We've chartered trains and organised for clients to drive them, we've hired one of the boats that sailed in the Whitbread Round the World Race and got the clients to help crew it, we've hired Scottish castles, organised super-car races at grand prix circuits ... people aren't following each others' leads any more, they're really thinking about what they want and how to achieve it."







Good sports: Henley, Twickenham, Ascot and Wimbledon are all favoured as venues, although increasingly corporate hospitality is becoming more focused

Mr Hoare was told by a colleague of a wonderful day at Wimbledon. "When I asked him who the invitation came from, he couldn't remember," Mr Hoare said. "Corporate hospitality was always perceived as involving a spectator activity. It's still going on but you don't get the chance to interact with your guests as much. The business returns on the more unusual, often participatory activities, can be far better."

Umbro, the football kit manufacturer, prides itself on leading the pack as far as stylish corporate hospitality goes. Rather than hiring an hotel during the World Cup, the company, which sponsors the England team, hired a cruise liner for 350 people, including company directors and Umbro's most valued clients.

"Our view of corporate hospitality and business development goes hand in hand," said Peter Draper, brand marketing director at Umbro. "In a six-day cruise we took in the Tunisia game, spent a day playing golf in Cannes, stopped off in Marseilles, Monte Carlo, Nice and Italy and had several parties including a Seventies evening when the entire Umbro board came dressed as the Village People."

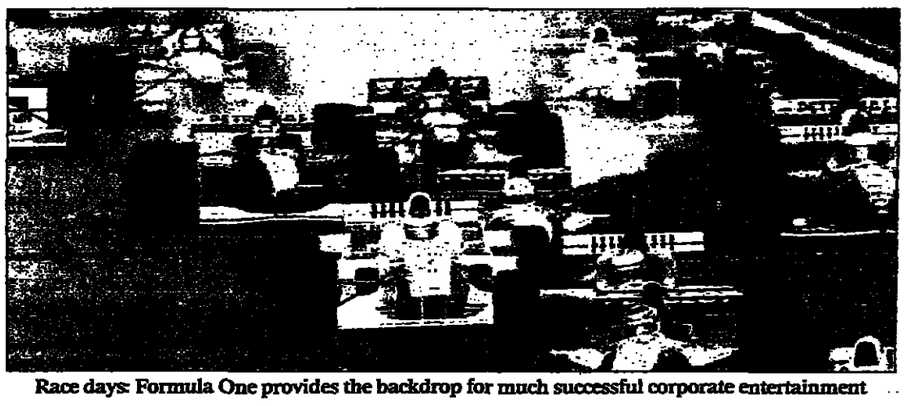
"But it wasn't all play," insisted Mr Draper. "By creating an exciting, fun environment, we found that launching our new Spring '99 Collection was well received as well as cementing the sense of partnership we insist on having with our clients."

The cruise, which Umbro organised through Club Med Holidays, cost about £700,000 all in. "We arrange one of these extravaganzas every two years. Rather than frittering the money over the Henleys and Wimbledons, we focus our efforts and get what we feel to be a much better response. Nobody who's been on our cruise will be forgetting it in a hurry."

Earlier this year Wayne Moss promised that if anyone wanted to be helicoptered into Silverstone for the British Grand Prix, given the best of corporate hospitality, then flown by Lear jet to Stade de France to watch the World Cup final, his company could provide it for about £4,000-£4,500.

"The demand wasn't really there, but we were more than prepared to do it," he said.

This year Jarvis Woodhouse is flying in 120 helicopters to Silverstone with packages individually tailored to clients' needs. The company has even provided private rooms at a nearby hotel complete with necessary cold beers and nibbles where clients can be flown by helicopter straight after the Grand Prix to watch the World Cup final. Corporate packages for Silverstone range from £450 to £900, including the hotel room afterwards. Regular entry into the Grand Prix costs £80 for a ticket without a reserved grandstand seat and £145 for one with a reserved seat.



Race days: Formula One provides the backdrop for much successful corporate entertainment

"Within reason, we do what we can to make the day as easy as possible for our guests," said Mr Moss. Guests are dropped off by helicopter directly outside their enclosure, given fresh coffee and croissants, then Champagne and a four-course lunch complete with fine wines, port and brandy. During the lunch they will be given a speech by Johnny Herbert, winner of the race three years ago. Previous guest speakers have included the likes of Stirling Moss.

After lunch the guests have the option of taking drinks outside the covered luxury tents where they can play with Scalextric racing car sets. They are then taken to their reserved seats in the grandstand where they enjoy the pre-race spectacles of the Red Arrows and paratroops after which they finally watch the race. After afternoon tea, they are flown over the lines of traffic queueing to leave the area to a prearranged drop-off point.

Gardner Merchant Leisure, the caterer for Silverstone, estimates that it will be supplying over 32,000 corporate lunches in the space of two hours on Sunday.

"It's now expected of us that we provide food as good as any West End restaurant ... but in a field," said Bob Cotton, spokesman for Gardner Merchant. "Caterers no longer simply serve up cold platters and salads," he said. "We serve a whole range of international dishes formulated by top-class chefs."

Owing to the increasingly cosmopolitan tastes of the guests, Mr Cotton explained, Gardner Merchant, which also caters at Henley, Royal Ascot and Lord's, is forced constantly to change its menus.

"Every year we bring in chefs such as Gary Rhodes to head masterclasses to produce a new range for the season," he said.

"Obviously the food we produce at Silverstone will be of a different nature to that produced at Henley because of the time and space constraints, but it still has to be of restaurant quality."

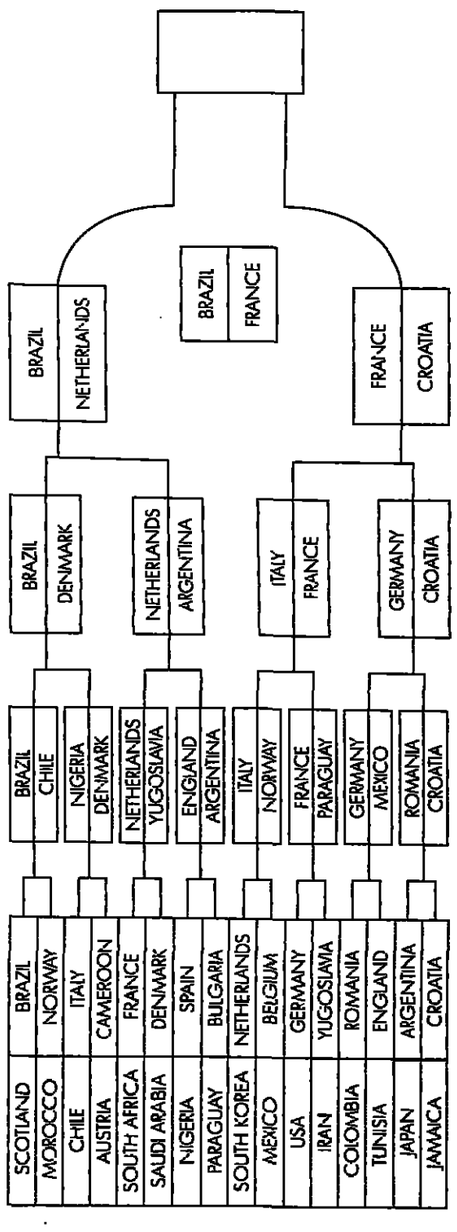
Throwing back copious amounts of alcohol has also disappeared, Mr Cotton says. "Champagne consumption is probably steady, but the days of polishing off brandies until the early evening without seeing what you've actually come to the event for are gradually fading."

It is the fine detail of these events that completes the picture and nowhere does this become more apparent than in the loos. "This is not Glastonbury," said Mr Moss.

"People don't expect to go to the toilet behind a curtain screen or squat in a Portaloo. Instead they get 40-foot-long trailers with marble toilets and basins, pictures on the walls, handtowels ... they're probably better done-out than most people's bathrooms at home."

In a survey of 260 blue chip companies carried out by Total Research of the traditional corporate hospitality events, Twickenham came out top as the most effective venue to build relationships with existing and potential customers. Following Twickenham was Wimbledon, followed by Ascot, then St Andrews and then Lord's.

But as the Corporate Hospitality Association insists, "there's no such thing as a free lunch". With one in five top companies now spending more than 10 per cent of its marketing budget on corporate hospitality, the way in which relationships are formed with clients is changing as fast as the nature of corporate hospitality itself.



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Former rail chief with job of uncoupling Sears chain

When Sir Bob Reid joined British Rail as chairman, in 1990, it was called the worst job in Britain. When he left, in 1995, to chair disaster-prone Sears, he found himself in a job that was even less enviable. It was a classic case of out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Being in the hot seat has become a way of life for Sir Bob. It is unsurprising, therefore, that the first simmerings of a new crisis at Sears this week left him unfazed. Questions are being asked about why Sears is not delaying next week's demerger of Selfridges since its sales are known to be poor, with tourist spending down and redevelopment work depressing business, and since the stores sector is very out of favour on the stock market.

The policy developed by Vittorio Radice, chief executive of Selfridges, of stuffing the store with designer labels is also being queried. Worse, one big investor has gone public with complaints about how Sears is carrying out the demerger.

Sir Bob was, as ever, taking it all in his stride. He spent much of the week in Aberdeen at a conference on world tourism, and was far keener to talk about that than about the future of Selfridges. He is confident that Friday's EGM will vote for the demerger and is unflustered by the criticism from Clerical Medical, the fund manager, about there not being a separate vote on incentive plans set up for Selfridges's executives. "I'm not bothered at all," he said. "I would be bothered if I hadn't consulted widely, but I did."

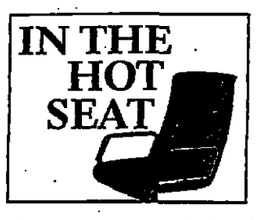
Sir Bob has a tendency to say that nothing bothers him much, which can infuriate those who are bothered. He insists that running British Rail, which came after 30 years with the Shell oil company, was "an excellent job" and that Sears has also been enjoyable. He stops short of calling it "excellent", however, and prefers to concentrate on the fact that it has "a lot of good young people" working in it. He is determined to stay the course until Freemans, the mail order company that he tried to sell to Littlewoods, is also demerged.



Liam Strong, left, the former chief executive of Sears, was defended loyally by Sir Bob

He plans to say his final farewell to Sears at the end of next year, and, although he insists that it has all been good fun, he would not be human if he were not looking forward to it coming to an end.

Sears, like British Rail, was bound to be a tough job, but Sir Bob has been criticised for the way he has run the group. The company has been whittled away, with businesses often sold off at inopportune times. The low point came when 380 British Shoe Corporation shops were sold to Stephen Hinchliffe. The Yorkshire businessman's empire subsequently collapsed and the shops ended up back with Sears. Closing them cost Sears £54.2 million. The cost of demerging Selfridges and Freemans is £40 million, and the total written off in the group's restructuring over the past three years is £350 million.



It is no wonder, then, that Sir Bob has got used to fielding complaints from institutional investors in Sears and to being pilloried in the press. Although Liam Strong had been at Sears for three years before Sir Bob arrived, he was held responsible for keeping Mr Strong on board even when everything he did turned to dust. Sir Bob himself looked in a shaky position until Mr Strong finally left last year, but even now he defends Mr Strong's reputation. His loyalty, which might be admired in another context, was interpreted as stubbornness.

It is much harder to find anyone with a bad word to say about Sir Bob personally. He is pleasant company and has shown grit in overcoming the consequences of an accident involving a mincing machine that robbed him of his right arm at the age of nine. Despite the loss, he has not only become a captain of industry but also achieved a golf handicap of four at one point. Even now, aged 64, he plays twice a week, off ten.

If only Sir Bob's successes on the golf course had been repeated at Sears, he would be much more popular with people who do not actually know him but have been unfortunate enough to hold the company's shares since he took office. The shares have halved in actual value and underperformed the market by 75 per cent. They are trading at below the break-up value of the group because the market has so little faith in the management.

Despite his thick skin, even Sir Bob must be hoping that when he finally leaves next year, such a bleak picture will not be his legacy.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CV: SIR BOB REID

Born: 1934 in Cupar, Fife.
Education: St Andrews University.
Career: Joined Shell in 1956. Chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, 1985-90. Became British Rail chairman and knighted in 1990. Sears chairman since 1995. Deputy Governor of Bank of Scotland since 1997.

مكبرا من الأصل

ATURDAY JULY 11 1998

IN BRIEF

Bomb plot man loses appeal

Organic plea

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Speculation surrounds fate of Willis Corroon

THERE is no smoke without fire. This is useful advice if you happen to be an insurance broker and it is worth heeding if you happen to be an old takeover favourite such as **Willis Corroon**, which firmed another 1p in a falling market to close at a new high for the year of 178p.

City speculators claimed a bid may be just round the corner. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £750 million. The price has now come up from a low of 115½p this year with potential suitors such as **Sedgwick**, up 4½p at 141½p, and the US outfit Marsh MaClennan all tipped as potential suitors.

Insurance brokers have suffered difficult market conditions for the past few years. Willis Corroon's shareholders would probably welcome a bid, including PDFM, which owns a 22 per cent stake.



Drugs companies had to swallow falling share prices

Overnight setbacks for Wall Street and markets in the Far East meant there was only one route for investors in London. Prices drifted in thin trading with a feeble rally cut short by falls in New York. In the event the FTSE 100 closed 40.0 down at 5,929.7, stretching the loss on the week to 58.7. The FTSE 250 closed just 4.5 down at 5,628.8 as turnover reached 855 million shares.

Zeneca dropped 67p to £24.03 as doubts were cast over the ability of Tamoxifen to prevent breast cancer. The selling also spilled over into **Glaxo Wellcome**, down 18p at £17.95 and **SmithKline Beecham**, 16½p off at 765½p. **Shield Diagnostics** was another casualty retreating 72½p to 510p as brokers responded to trading news.

J Sainsbury reversed Thursday's fall with a rise of 14p to 544p after an upbeat trading statement. **Storehouse** also pleased investors with a trading statement that lifted the price 12½p to 279p. Nick Bubb at Société Générale Securities, the broker, cannot understand why investors take such a dim view of **Debenhams**, which continues to trade close to its low for the year, if Storehouse is doing so well. Debenhams rallied 13p to 343p, but Bubb says there is scope for improvement.

Also in the retail sector, investors began taking advantage of the weakness in the **Next** price, down 10p at 504p. **Tiger Management** has bought a further 1.1 million shares stretching its holding to 27.3 million, or 7.3 per cent. David Keens, finance director, has also picked up 6,400 shares at 493p.

A profits warning left **Albright & Wilson** 13½p down at 131½p. The company complained that the strength of sterling and the dollar against other European currencies would hit profits. The news from Albright also unsettled the rest of the chemical sector with **ICI** dropping 22p to 996p, **Croda International** 9½p to 374p, and **Inspec** 9½p to 267½p. **Crown Eyeglass**, down 10p at 200p, is another casualty of the strong pound. The group will do no better than break even when reporting next month.

Siebe was another weak market dropping 28p to £11.01 and stretching the deficit of the past two days to 61p. Société Générale Securities has reduced its recommendation in the shares from "buy" to "hold". A "sell" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson left **Premier Farnell** 8½p down at 285½p.

Vodafone added 6½p at 784½p as investors began switching out of rival **Orange**, down 32p at 638p. Earlier this week Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, put a brake on their recent strong run by claiming both shares were overvalued. Vodafone is tipped to bid for Korea Telecom's 18 per cent stake in SK Telecom.

Still reeling from Thursday's profits warning **Critchley Group** dropped 90p to 672½p.

Fibernet stood out with a leap of 60p to 501½p amid claims that an American buyer was trying to pick up 500,000 shares in the communications specialist. But its a thin market with traders normally making a price in only 2,000 shares at a time. Fibernet has seen its shares surge from a low of 84½p this year.

Norcros eased ½p to 66p after **John Mansfield**, unchanged at 8p, eased out of possible bid talks. Mansfield will continue to look at other potential deals.

Spring Ram firmed ½p to 12¼p as one of its founders severed remaining links. Bill Rooney has sold his remaining 37.2 million shares, 8.2 per cent, for 10p a share.

The breakdown in bid talks left **Save Group** nursing a fall of 17½p at 101p. Britain's second biggest independent petrol retailer said the talks were aborted after the buyer reassesed prospects for the industry. A breakdown in bid talks also left **Azlan Group** 3½p lower at 60p.

CCI Holdings held steady at 112½p despite the news that Simon Beart had been appointed chairman after taking a 15 per cent stake in the AIM-listed stock. City investors will be hoping he can do for CCI what he did for Brittain Group, the packaging specialist, before it was taken out earlier this year. Jeremy Peace has also taken a stake in CCI.

Also on AIM, shares of **CRC Group** were suspended at 143½p pending an announcement.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** After a hectic week, prices drifted throughout the session in thin trading as profit taking developed. The short end bore the brunt of the losses having been quickest to celebrate the pegging of interest rates at 7.5 per cent by the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt ended £0.04 lower at £109.11 as a total of 46,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future also shed £0.05 at £103.30 on turnover of five contracts. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was a tick firmer at £131¼, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased £$^1/_{16}$ to £102$^3/_{32}$.

□ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street drifted lower in early trading as defensive investors sold shares ahead of earnings announcements. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 39.91 points at 9,049.87.

RAIN is forecast for much of the country this weekend with even more on the way. Bad news for garden centres. Brokers fear a spate of profit warnings before too long. Their fears are already reflected in shares of the likes of Wyevale, 1p easier at 301½p. That compares with its low for the year of 281p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Scottish Power	591p	+50p	Scottish Telecom float?
Beales Hunter	108½p	+27p	Stadium bids 110p
Shield Diagnostics	510p	+57p	Buying ahead of results
Infobank International	200p	—105p	Profits warning
Xenova Group	100p	—25p	Shares sold at big discount
Anite Group	69p	+7½p	Directors buying shares
Orange	638p	—70p	Shares overvalued?
Save Group	101p	—25p	Bid talks breakdown
Dixons Group	540½p	+35½p	Results beat expectations

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9049.87 (-39.91)
S&P Composite 1154.10 (-4.46)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16090.06 (-356.89)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8205.77 (-228.01)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 1248.46 (-9.12)

Sydney:
AO 2747.9 (-41.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 5982.42 (-14.35)

Singapore:
Straits 1090.35 (-13.30)

Brussels:
General 21667.20 (-75.09)

Paris:
CAC-40 4256.35 (-62.83)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1709.70 (-2.20)

London:

FT 30	3896.9 (-7.6)
FTSE 100	5929.7 (-40.0)
FTSE 250	5628.8 (-4.5)
FTSE 350	2862.0 (-16.1)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2959.09 (-24.61)
FTSE All-Share	2787.48 (-15.32)
FTSE Non Financials	2856.88 (-17.54)
FTSE Fixed Interest	144.14 (+0.17)
FTSE Govt Secs	105.43 (+0.05)
Bargains	56904
SEAQ Volume	855.5m
US$	1.6322 (+0.0019)
German Mark	2.9662 (-0.0135)
Exchange Index	105.5 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5036
£:SDR	1.2321
RPI	163.5 May (4.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	161.3 May (3.2%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AdVal Group	66½	...
Advance Dev Mkts	102¼	- ½
Anglo Siberian Oil	107½	...
Biocmptls Warrants	16½	- 2½
British Regnl Air	158½	...
CCM Distribution	11½	...
City Gourmets	55	...
Dresdner RCM End	99	...
Dresdner RCM Inc	90	- ½
Dresdner RCM Zero	100¼	...
ECsoft	2475	+137½
Game	190½	- 2
HW	130	...
Interior Services	135	...
JSB Software Techs	225½	...
London Town Wts	40	+ 5
Murray Financial	11¼	...
Policy Master Grp	210	+ ½
Quantica	140½	...
Sports & Outdr Media	97½	+ 1
Touchstone Grp	144½	...
Tricorder Tech	96½	...
Williams Non Cum	34	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cox Insrnce n/p (400)	62½	...
First Choice n/p (130)	20	...
LEPCO n/p (40)	1½	...
Martin Intl n/p (36)	1½	...
Oliver Group n/p (25)	1¼	...
Omnimedia n/p (60)	20	+ 2½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Baldwin	170p (+45p)
Carpetright	275p (+17p)
Weir	216p (+11p)
Norwich Union	454p (+12½p)
Sainsbury J	544p (+14p)
Sun Life & P	570p (+14½p)
Scot & New	829½p (+18p)

FALLS:

Save Gp	101p (-17½p)
Shield Diag	510p (-72½p)
Telspec	220p (-27½p)
Regent Inns	181p (-10½p)
Hutch Whamp	305¼p (-16p)
Orange	638p (-32p)
API	575p (-25p)

Closing Prices Page 24

TEMPUS

DIY dodges the rain

THE retail sector is clearly having a hard time at the moment but, as ever, there are some winners among the losers.

The biggest sufferers so far identified are the furniture and clothing retailers, who have been caught out by declining consumer confidence, the weather, the disappearance of windfall spending and, to a lesser extent, the World Cup. Yesterday's figures from Storehouse suggested that trade is not all that bad, however. Those who need convincing should wait until Marks & Spencer's annual meeting next week. With such a huge chunk of the clothing market, M&S can say for sure if it is good, bad or indifferent out there.

Given how awful the weather has been, it was surprising to discover from Sainsbury's Homebase and from Wickes yesterday that DIY sales have held up rather well. Wickes is moving into more mainstream DIY, but is still focused largely on the building trade end, and will have suffered less than others from poor gardening equipment sales. Homebase is at the opposite end of the DIY spectrum, but it too was able to report 5.1 per cent like-for-like sales for the past 17 weeks. A very poor period last year, when in the throes of the Texas conversions, helped comparisons.

There are some signs that the DIY trade is slowing, with Wickes reporting sales only 4.6 per cent higher in the last three months after 5.1 per cent rise in the previous quarter. Considering the problems it went through last year, it has made a remarkable recovery and its shares have had a reasonable run. But while Wickes's shares remain on a low rating, DIY-related stocks look risky in these uncertain times.

Albright & Wilson

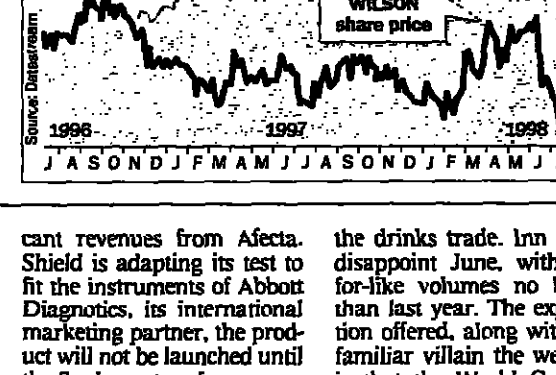
JUST over a year ago, a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Albright & Wilson was shouting about emerging markets. The phosphates and surfactants company was targeting new opportunities in Latin America, China and India.

Today, the future south of the Rio Grande looks a little less bright and the less said about Asia the better.

To be fair, the pound, too, was a little less aggressively valued a year ago and no one predicted an Asian meltdown. Albright's warning yesterday about margins could have been scripted by anyone watching the fortunes of chemical manufacturers over the past six months.

The question is whether Albright is now cheap. After falling another 13½p to 131½p yesterday, it would be difficult to find better value on pure valuation grounds, even in the chemical sector. Looking a year out it is priced on about ten times earnings, compared with a market multiple of 19 times. Albright is making money and is increasing market share in North America. Sterling will eventually turn down and over time the market for the soap makers and food companies — Albright's customers — will improve in Asia.

After such disappointments and a rotten share price record, you need faith to buy such an unattractive investment but the downside looks limited.



Shield

FOR little apparent reason, shares in Shield Diagnostics had leapt from about 460p to 582½p in the run-up to yesterday's results. Any hopes of a second marketing partner for Shield's heart disease test predictably proved wide of the mark, and there was no more news from the application lodged with the US regulators at the US Food and Drug Administration. The shares promptly fell back to 510p.

The potential for Shield's Activated Factor 12 test, now branded as Afecta, has attracted a tribe of small investors who will have to learn to become more patient. AFT has been portrayed as a replacement for cholesterol tests, of which more than 500 million are conducted every year. But while pound signs have been flashing in investors' imaginations for the last 18 months, it could take be just as long again before Shield starts to earn significant revenues from Afecta. Shield is adapting its test to fit the instruments of Abbott Diagnotics, its international marketing partner, the product will not be launched until the final quarter of next year.

It is encouraging to hear that Shield will launch a version of its homocysteine test later this year, which complements Afecta my measuring an indicator of blood vessel damage. But the rest of Shield's business in infectious and autoimmune diseases offers the prospect of only modest profits.

The good news is that after the completion of a UK study, there is little doubt that AFT is a good predictor of the risk of heart disease and stroke. But investors will have to wait for these benefits to show through in the shares.

Inn Business

IF ONE is to believe Inn Business, the small pubs group, the World Cup has been a challenging time for the drinks trade. Inn had a disappoint June, with like-for-like volumes no higher than last year. The explanation offered, along with that familiar villain the weather, is that the World Cup has been keeping drinkers out of the pubs.

Anecdotal evidence makes this a little hard to believe. While some fans may have staged their own private drinks parties in front of their TVs, many more have chosen to enjoy the big match atmosphere with their mates in pubs and bars. Unless Inn's 469 pubs lack a TV between, it is hard to imagine how they might have missed out on this phenomenon.

Inn's investors need not worry too much, since it was reporting a a 27 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. Its shares reacted calmly, slipping 1½p to 65p. No doubt the World Cup will be blamed for many other trading blips in the weeks ahead.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1047-1044	Sep	1190-1176
Sep	1085-1084	Dec	1210-1193
Dec	1112-1110	Mar	1218-1213
Mar	1140-1132	unq	
May	1160-1150		
Jul	1175-1159	Volume:	2678

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1535-1530	Mar	1568 SLR
Sep	unq	May	1575 SLR
Nov	1563-1562	Jul	unq
Jan	1563 SLR	Volume:	2812

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	253.3-52.1
Spot: 254.0		May	255.7-53.6
Aug	252.6-51.8	Aug	258.7-55.6
Oct	246.5-46.0	Oct	259.2-56.1
Dec	249.4-48.1	Volume:	5586

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 9

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	60.91	112.89	91.97
(+/-)	-4.60	+3.47	-0.63
Eng/Wales:	60.91	112.88	90.13
(+/-)	-4.60	+3.29	-1.03
(%)	-4.0	+9.0	+14.0
Scotland:	unq	113.00	101.04
(+/-)	...	+5.18	+3.58
(%)	...	+4.0	-21.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	11.80	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Aug)	13.10	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Sep)	13.35	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	14.00	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	14.40	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	160 (n/c)	163 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	114 (n/c)	116 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	61 (n/c)	63 (-1)
Naphtha	133 (+3)	135 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	116.25-16.50	Nov	128.25-29.00
Sep	120.25-20.50	Dec	132.00 SLR
Oct	124.50-25.00		Vol: 34445

BRENT (6.00pm)

Aug	13.08-13.09	Nov	13.67-13.88
Sep	13.32-13.33	Dec	14.12 BID
Oct	13.60-13.61		Vol: 37052

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Jul	75.80
Sep	70.50
Nov	72.50
Jan	74.50
Mar	76.50
Volume:	152

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Sep	69.65
Nov	72.25
Jan	74.25
Mar	76.25
May	77.50
Volume:	15

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	83.5
Mar		113.5
Apr	158.0	158.5
		Volume: 39

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Aug 48.50-49.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jul 98	858	845	845
Aug 98	850	840	840
Sep 98	865	860	860
Oct 98	940	935	940

Vol: 64 lots. Open interest: 2196

Index 842 +2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

(Official)	Cash	3mth	(Volume prev day)
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1578.0-1579.0	1595.0-1596.0	Vol: 1512450
Lead ($/tonne)	540.00-541.00	532.00-532.50	165625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1020.5-1021.0	1045.0-1045.5	336850
Tin ($/tonne)	5635.0-5640.0	5525.0-5530.0	10405
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1258.0-1259.0	1287.0-1287.5	1880625
Nickel ($/tonne)	4120.0-4125.0	4180.0-4185.0	61062

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
ASDA	200	8	18	26½	1	11	16½
(*207½)	220	—	9	17½	13	22	27
Abbey Nat	1000	49½	101½	137	1	43½	63½
(*1048)	1050	12	75½	112	13	67½	87½
Alld&Leic	800	18	70	96½	7	48	65½
(*811½)	850	1	47	72½	40½	75½	91½
Alld Dom	500	50	66½	75½	—	7½	17½
(*549½)	550	5	34	45	5½	25	38½
BAA	650	15	53	69	2	28	39½
(*662½)	700	—	31	45	37½	54½	65½
BAT Ind	600	48½	74½	93½	—	22½	35
(*648)	650	7½	47½	67½	9½	45	58½
Barclays	1800	25½	125	183	14½	96½	125½
(*1809½)	1900	1	81	136	90½	153½	180
Bass	1069	21	84½	—	9½	49½	—
(*1079½)	1100	7	68½	87	25½	64½	87
Boots	1000	22½	79	110	4½	44	59½
(*1017½)	1050	2½	53½	84½	34	67	84
Br Airways	650	45½	82½	101	1	27	37
(*694)	700	10	55	77	15	49	60
BP	850	19	68	94½	6	44½	59
(*863)	900	1½	45	70½	38	71	84½
Br Steel	130	8	16½	20½	—	6	9½
(*137½)	140	1½	11½	15½	4	10½	14
C&W	750	41	83	110	1½	38	52
(*789)	800	8½	57½	87½	18½	62½	76½
CU	1100	20	90½	123	13	78½	90½
(*1106½)	1150	3	68	98½	46	106	117
GlaxoW	1700	94	182	244½	1½	77½	109
(*1792)	1800	19½	129½	194½	28½	125	157½
HSBC	1500	27½	133	188½	18	119	148
(*1508)	1600	3	91½	144½	93	177½	203
Halifax	700	48	84	104	1	31½	37½
(*747½)	750	9½	57	77½	12	54½	61
ICI	950	49	93½	124½	1½	38½	50½
(*997½)	1000	12	68	99	13	61½	74
Land Sec	900	13½	62	84	6	37½	52
(*906)	950	½	35½	57½	42	62	75
M&S	500	37½	55	68	—	12½	19½
(*537)	550	2	26½	42½	14	32	41
Nat Pwr	550	14	47½	65½	5	26½	40
(*559½)	600	—	25	43	40½	53	67½
Nat West	1100	18½	80	121	9	64	88
(*1109)	1150	2	57½	96	42½	92	114
Reed Intl	550	42	69	84	—	20½	26½
(*591½)	600	5	42	57	13	39	49
Reuters	645	30½	67½	—	1½	30	—
(*674½)	703	1	39½	—	30	59	—
Rl&Sun	600	27	65	86	1½	33	42½
(*625½)	650	1½	41½	62	26	59½	68
Safeway	360	24	41	51	—	13½	19
(*383½)	390	2	24	35	9	24½	31½
Sainsbury	500	49	69	86½	—	14½	22½
(*548½)	550	6½	41½	58½	8	34½	43½
Shell	390	25½	40½	51	—	11	17
(*415)	420	3	23	34½	7½	24	29
SmKl Bch	750	22	74	100	4½	45½	59½
(*770)	800	2	50	75½	32½	71	84½
Std Char	650	12	73½	93½	11½	65½	78½
(*660)	700	½	53	72	50½	95	107
Thames W	1050	45	99	123½	1½	33½	46½
(*1093½)	1100	8½	73	96½	17	56	68½
Vodafone	750	40	91	118½	2	39½	56
(*788½)	800	6½	65½	94	20½	64	80½
Woolwich	294	28	42	—	—	11	—
(*322)	324	3	25½	—	4½	24	.
Zeneca	2400	34½	185½	264	22½	141	187½
(*2405½)	2500	7	138½	214	95½	191½	238
(*696½)	700	30	57	79	29½	50	63
Redland	330	15½	—	—	½	—	—
(*345)	360	½	—	—	15½	—	—
R-Royce	240	25	35	43	4	11½	15½
(*259½)	260	13	24½	32½	11	20½	25
Tesco	183	14	20	26	4	8½	12
(*191½)	200	5½	12½	17½	12½	17½	20
Utd Bisc	220	22	27	33½	1½	6½	10½
(*238½)	240	9	15½	22	8½	15	19

	Series	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Puts Aug	Puts Nov	Puts Feb
BTR	152	20	26	--	2½	8	—
(*168)	177	6½	14	—	13½	20½	—
Blue Circ	330	24	37	45½	8	18	25
(*344)	360	9½	23½	31	23	34	40½
Br Aero	450	32	54½	—	15	29	—
(*466)	475	18½	42½	—	27	41	—
Br Telcm	750	48½	79	98½	21	40½	55
(*781½)	800	23½	55	73	47	65½	79½
Cadbury	950	42½	76	103½	31½	54½	67
(*954)	1000	22	53	79	60½	82	93
Carlton Cms	550	39	62	80	13½	28½	35½
(*569)	600	15½	38½	55½	40	55	61
Diageo	729	59½	—	—	16	—	-
(*767)	787	27½	—	—	42½	—	-
Energy Gp	800	43	46½	..	½	1	-
(*840)	850	9½	10	.	15	16	.
Gallaher	330	23	34½	40½	5½	17	22
(*347½)	360	8	20	26½	18	33½	36½
GEC	500	55½	69	85½	7	22	28
(*547)	550	22½	40½	59	26½	44	51
Hanson	360	29½	41½	51½	5	14	18½
(*383)	390	11	26	36	17½	28	22½
Imp Tob	460	36	52	59	6½	15	24½
(*486½)	500	14	29	38	22½	32½	44
Kingfshr	450	35	51	65	8½	22	25
(*473½)	475	20½	37½	52	18½	31½	37
Lasmo	220	19½	29	36	5½	9	12
(*232)	240	9	18½	26½	14	18½	21½
Ladbroke	300	27½	39	47½	7	16½	22½
(*318)	330	12	24	32½	21½	31	37½
LucasVar	240	12½	22	29	10	16½	21
(*240)	260	5	13½	21	23	27½	32½
P&O	950	39½	67½	92½	23	46½	57
(*961½)	1000	17½	44½	68½	51	74	83½
Prudentl	800	66½	95½	127½	17½	42½	56
(*845)	850	40	69½	103	38½	66½	80½
Rio Tinto	650	61	83½	103½	11	27½	39

	Series	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Puts Sep	Puts Dec	Puts Mar
BG	360	24½	37	47½	14½	23	29
(*367)	390	12	23½	34	31½	39½	45
BSkyB	460	34	49	58½	13½	21½	30
(*478)	500	15	29½	39	34	41½	50
Br Bio	30	7½	9½	11½	4½	6½	7½
(*31)	35	5½	7½	10	7½	9½	10½
Centrica	100	9	13½	18	4	5	7
(*104½)	110	4	8½	13	9½	10½	12
Dixons	500	48	67½	79½	14	22½	28
(*540)	550	22	40½	54½	35	44½	51½
EMI	460	56	70	83	16½	27½	37½
(*499½)	500	31½	50	64	33½	47	57
Granada	1100	59	93½	114½	45	66½	80½
(*1101½)	1150	37	69	90	73	90½	106½
GUS	750	44	65	80	32	49	58
(*759½)	800	22	43	58½	61½	77	86½
Llyds TSB	850	56	90	112	48	68½	86
(*854)	900	35	67	89½	77	96	111
Lonrho	288	20½	—	—	13½	—	—
(*295)	321	8½	—	—	35½	—	—
Norwich	420	49½	64½	77½	11½	21	27½
(*453)	460	26½	44	58	28½	39	46
Orange	600	73	100	114½	27	46	54
(*639½)	650	46½	75½	90½	50	71	79½
Railtrck	1500	104½	167½	208½	76	115	153½
(*1523½)	1600	61½	118	162	134	170	206½
Scot Pwr	550	64½	85½	94½	17	27½	37
(*592)	600	37	59½	69½	37	48½	60½
Tarmac	100	9	11½	14	3½	6	7½
(*104)	110	4½	7	9½	9	11½	13
Tomkins	330	25	32½	39	10½	16	30
(*346)	360	9	19½	25	27½	32½	36
Unilever	600	63½	81½	97½	15	25½	33
(*642)	650	34½	54	71	35½	47	56

July 10 Total: 33807 Calls: 19319 Puts: 14488

FTSE INDEX (*5942)

Strike	Calls Jul	Calls Aug	Calls Sep	Calls Oct	Calls Dec	Puts Jul	Puts Aug	Puts Sep	Puts Oct	Puts Dec
5750	212½	306	379	435		9½	86½	138½	163	--
5800	169½	269	341½	400	529½	15½	98½	154	179	227½
5850	129	234½	310	365	—	24	113½	170½	194½	—
5900	93	204½	278	331	458	38	133½	189½	212½	265
5950	63	174½	246½	303½	—	58½	153½	208½	235½	—
6000	39½	144½	215	276	390	86	175	228	259	304½
6050	22	122½	188½	248	—	121	203	252½	282	—
6100	11½	100	165	220½	330½	164	232	281½	306½	353

July 10 Total: 2669 Calls: 1297 Puts: 1372

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 98	109.28	109.40	109.05	109.11	46583
Previous open interest 134540	Dec 98				109.33	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 98	109.00	109.14	108.96	109.01	6660
Previous open interest 70175	Dec 98				108.38	0
Five Year Gilt	Sep 98	103.38	103.38	103.30	103.30	5
Previous open interest 2626	Dec 98					0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 98	121.08	121.18	121.02	121.10	14070
Previous open interest 107039	Dec 98				107.38	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 98	132.40	132.40	132.15	132.28	2130
	Dec 98	132.16	132.16	132.16	132.03	50
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 98	92.230	92.250	92.170	92.190	38503
	Dec 98	92.300	92.320	92.240	92.250	42391
Previous open interest 1025194	Mar 99	92.460	92.490	92.400	92.420	27589
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 98	96.400	96.410	96.385	96.395	42796
Previous open interest 2400842	Dec 98	96.170	96.180	96.155	96.175	47893
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 98	95.600	95.630	95.600	95.630	22641
Previous open interest 711224	Dec 98	96.080	96.100	96.060	96.090	18593
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 98	97.870	97.890	97.800	97.840	15356
Previous open interest 203254	Dec 98	97.670	97.690	97.610	97.640	7946
Three Mth Euro	Sep 98	95.905	95.910	95.900	95.900	308
Previous open interest 32320	Dec 98	96.125	96.125	96.120	96.120	37
FTSE 100	Sep 98	5975.0	6023.0	5955.0	5997.0	23215
Previous open interest 172010	Dec 98	6080.0	6084.0	6080.0	6090.5	500

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7½ Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 6½ Week fixed: 7¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7¼; 3 mth 7¼. Sell: 2 mth 7; 3 mth: 7.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	n/a	—	—	—	—
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 7¼, close 6½.					
Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7½	7½	7½
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.56	n/a	5.58	5.63	5.72
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £769m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.210% received: 100%; Last week: £98.17% received: 99%; Avge rate: £7.1596% last wk £7.3401%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $290.80-291.20 Close: $290.30-290.80 High: $290.85-291.35 Low: $290.00-290.50 AM: $291.35 PM: $290.60

Krugerrand: $291.00-293.00 (£178.00-180.00)

Platinum: $376.00 (£230.25) Silver: $5.265 (£3.235) Palladium: $295.00 (£180.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for July 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3444-3.3629	3.3444-3.3469	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	61.163-61.580	61.163-61.258	25-18pr	65-58pr
Copenhagen	11.297-11.377	11.297-11.306	¼-½pr	1-¼pr
Dublin	1.1773-1.1871	1.1785-1.1808	14-8pr	47-37pr
Frankfurt	2.9668-2.9833	2.9668-2.9691	1-½pr	3-2½pr
Lisbon	303.45-305.22	303.45-303.76	¼-½pr	2½-2pr
Madrid	251.82-253.27	251.83-252.00	72-61pr	2.17-1.98pr
Milan	2920.1-2941.7	2923.8-2927.7	70-54pr	214-192pr
Montreal	2.4072-2.4138	2.4118-2.4138	0.57-0.51pr	1.13-1.04pr
New York	1.6316-1.6328	1.6319-1.6327	0.268-0.247pr	0.81-0.75pr
Oslo	12.579-12.647	12.583-12.597	¼-½pr	½-½pr
Paris	9.9456-10.002	9.9456-9.9521	3½-3¼pr	1½-1pr
Stockholm	13.157-13.257	13.157-13.180	1½-1pr	1½-1pr
Tokyo	229.68-230.95	230.01-230.21	1½-1½pr	4½-4pr
Vienna	20.872-21.002	20.872-20.889	¼-½pr	2½-1½pr
Zurich	2.5061-2.5195	2.5069-2.5098	1½-1pr	3½-3½pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6220-1.6246
Austria	12.78-12.79
Belgium (Com)	37.48-37.50
Canada	1.4775-1.4780
Denmark	6.9260-6.9280
France	6.0955-6.0975
Germany	1.8191-1.8196
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7500
Ireland	1.3828-1.3848
Italy	1791.5-1793.0
Japan	140.68-140.78
Malaysia	4.2605-4.2700
Netherlands	2.0493-2.0498
Norway	7.7050-7.7070
Portugal	186.10-186.20
Singapore	1.7255-1.7275
Spain	154.27-154.32
Sweden	8.0635-8.0735
Switzerland	1.5348-1.5358

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6311-1.6336
Australia dollar	2.6487-2.6525
Bahrain dinar	0.6065-0.6225
Brazil real*	1.8865-1.8891
China yuan	13.362-13.667
Cyprus pound	0.8620-0.8830
Finland markka	8.9875-9.1315
Greece drachma	491.50-502.90
Hong Kong dollar	12.6433-12.6527
India rupee	68.36-70.16
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4945-0.5075
Malaysia ringgit	6.9514-6.9712
New Zealand dollar	3.1651-3.1713
Pakistan rupee	74.10 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8700-6.0040
Singapore dollar	2.8153-2.8203
S Africa rand (com)	n/a
U A E dirham	5.9200-6.0570

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	397	Lloyds TSB	6,118
ASDA Gp	8,450	LucasVarity	2,670
Abbey Ntl	2,403	Marks Spr	4,042
Allied Dom	1,234	Misys	312
Allnce & Leic	804	Nat Grid	3,646
Amvescap	1,308	Nat Power	1,760
AB Foods	1,087	NatWst Bk	3,628
Bk of Scot	2,932	Norwich Un	5,510
BAA	1,813	Nycmd Amr	865
Barclays	5,099	Orange	4,744
Bass	1,948	P & O	1,838
BAT Inds	4,225	Pearson	1,241
BG	6,510	PowerGen	636
Billiton	13,681	Prudential	2,213
Blue Circle	3,631	Railtrack	641
BOC	499	Rank Group	1,758
Boots	2,389	Reckitt Col	1,963
BAe	2,596	Reed Intl	3,872
BA	4,568	Rentokil	4,112
Brit Energy	2,021	Reuters	2,618
Br Land	775	Rio Tinto	2,374
BP	11,471	RMC	250
Brit Steel	6,077	Rolls Royce	2,319
BSkyB	3,522	Royal & Sun	5,871
BT	11,552	Royal Bk Sct	1,774
BTR	5,938	Safeway	2,358
CGU	1,617	Sainsbury	12,076
Cable Wire	4,509	Schroders	248
Cadbury	2,487	Scot & New	12,320
Carlton Cms	1,469	Scot Power	2,182
Centrica	3,555	Svrn Trent	477
Compass Gp	1,754	Shell Trans	11,341
Diageo	4,854	Siebe	3,578
EMI	3,974	Smiths Ind	3,674
Energy Oil	1,199	SmKl Bch	12,256
Gen Elec	3,552	Stagecoach	285
GKN	3,125	Std Chard	2,941
Glaxo Well	4,009	Sun Life	194
Granada	1,121	Tesco	5,994
GUS	1,121	Thames W	849
GRE	1,943	Tomkins	2,621
ICI	2,890	Unilever	3,969
HSBC	2,245	Utd News	1,498
Halifax	5,832	Utd Utilities	405
Hays	1,698	Vodafone	10,101
Kingfisher	7,357	WPP	3,339
Ladbroke	1,578	Whitbread	784
Land Secs	2,908	Williams	1,650
LASMO	4,863	Woolwich	2,848
Legal & Gn	1,016	Zeneca	7,632

WALL STREET

	Jul 10 midday	Jul 9 close
AMP Inc	33½	33½
AMR Corp	85	86
AT & T	56	57½
Abbott Labs	42	42
Advanced Micro	15½	15½
Aetna Life	77½	77½
Ahmanson (HF)	74½	74
Air Prod & Chem	38	38½
AirTouch Comm	58½	58½
Albertson's	50½	51½
Alcan Alumnm	26½	26½
Allied Signal	44½	44
Alum Co of Am	64	65½
Amerada Hess	53	54
AEP	45½	45
Amer Express	114½	114½
Amer Genl Corp	73	73
Amer Home Pr	48½	50
Amer Intl	145½	146½
Amer Online	111½	113
Amer Stores	24	23½
Amer Standard	46	46½
Ameritech	45	45
Amgen	67½	67½
Amoco	41	41
Andrew Corp	18	17
Anheuser-Busch	48	47
Apple Computer	32	31
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	6	6½
Armstrng Wrld	66½	66
Asarco	22	22½
Atl Richfield	72	73
Atmel Corp	12	13
Auto Data Pro	71½	73½
Avery Dennison	57	58
Avon Products	81½	81½
Baker Hughes	31½	31½
Baltim Gas & El	30	31
Banc One	58	58½
BankAmerica	96½	97
Bank of NY	63	63
Bankers Tr Crp	119½	119
Bausch & Lomb	47½	47½
Baxter Intl	59½	55½
Bectn Dicknsn	85½	85
Bell Atlantic	46	46½
BellSouth	65½	67
Best Foods	57½	57½
Black & Decker	63	64
Block (H&R)	44	43½
Boeing	47½	48
Boise Cascade	31½	31½
Boston Scien	74	74
Bristol Myrs Sq	119	117
Browning Ferris	36	36
Brunswick	23	23½
Burlington Nthn	100	102
CMS Energy Corp	43½	44
CSX	45	45½
CBS Corp	32½	33
Campbell Soup	53	53½
Carolina Pwr	41	42
Case Corp	44½	44½
Caterpillar	52	52
Central & SW	26	26
Champion Intl	46½	47
Chase Manhat	74½	73½
Chevron Corp	81½	81½
Chrysler	56½	57½
Chubb Corp	85	86
Cigna Corp	72	72
Citicorp	170½	169½
Clorox	95	94
Coastal Corp	34	34
Coca Cola	86	86
Coca Cola Ent	39	39½
Colgate-Palm	91	90
Columbia Energy	55½	54½
ColumbiaHCA	29	29
Compaq Comp	31	31
Comp Ass Int	56	57½
Conagra	25½	26
Cons Edison	45	45
Cons Nat Gas	55	55½
Cooper Inds	56	56½
Corning Inc	34	34
C'wide Credit	53½	55½
Crestar Finl	59½	58
Crown Cork	45½	47
Daimler Bz ADR	97	99
Dana Corp	52	53½
Dayton Hudson	48	49
Deere	50	49
Dell Computer	99½	99½
Delta Air Lines	134½	135
Deluxe Corp	36	36
Dillard Dept St	39	39½
Disney (Walt)	37	111
Dominion Res	40	41
Donelley (RR)	46	47
Dover Corp	33	34
Dow Chemical	95	95
Dow Jones	57	57
Dresser	41½	41½
Duke Energy	58	58
Du Pont	69½	70
Eastman Chem	61	60
Eastman Kodak	73½	74½
Eaton Corp	75	76

	Jul 10 midday	Jul 9 close
Edison Intl	29	29
Elect Data Sys	37½	37
Emerson Elec	62	60½
Engelhard Corp	19½	19½
Enron Corp	54	54½
Emergy	28	28
Ethyl Corp	5½	6
Exxon	71½	71½
FDX Holding	65	66
FMC Corp	67	66½
FPL Group	62½	62½
Fifth Third Banc	63½	63½
Fleet Finl Grp	84	84
Fluor Corp	46½	47½
Ford Motor	56½	59
Fort James	43	43½
Fortune Brands	38	38½
Franklin Res	51	51½
GTE Corp	56½	56½
Gannett	72	71½
Gap Inc Del	64	64½
Gateway 2000	59	61
Gen Dynamics	45	45
Gen Electric	93	94½
Gen Mills	68	68
Gen Motors	70	71
Gen Reinsurance	255½	257
Gen Signal	36½	36½
Genuine Parts	34½	35
Georgia Pac	55	56½
Gillette	60	59
Glaxo Wellc ADR	58½	59
Goodrich (BF)	48	47
Goodyear Tire	65	65
Great Lakes	39½	38½
Halliburton	42	42
Harcourt General	60½	60
Heinz (HJ)	57½	57½
Hercules	39	39½
Hershey Foods	65½	66
Hewlett Packard	59	59
Hilton Hotels	27½	26
Home Depot	46½	46
Homestake Mng	9	10
Honeywell	87	87½
Household Intl	50½	51½
Houston Inds	29½	30
Humana	30½	31½
Ikon Office	15	15
Illinois Tool	67	66½
Illinova	25	25
INCO	12½	12
Ingersoll Rand	43	42
Inland Steel	26	27½
Intel Corp	79	79½
IBM	118½	117½
Intl Flav & Fr	41½	41½
Intl Paper	43	43½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	71½	72½
Kellogg	37	38
Kerr-McGee	57	57
Kimberly-Clark	46½	46½
Kmart	17½	18½
Knight-Ridder	57	56½
Lilly (Eli)	64	66
Limited Inc	32½	32
Lincoln Nat	93	94½
Litton	61	61½
Liz Claiborne	52	52½
Lockheed Martin	106½	106½
Louisiana Pac	17½	17
Lucent Tech	85½	86
MCI Comm	60	61½
Manpower Inc	30½	30
Marketspan Cp	29½	29½
Marriott Int A	32½	32
Marsh & McLnn	61	61½
Masco Corp	62½	62
May Dept St	66	67
Maytag Corp	52½	52
McDonalds	72	72
McGraw Hill	81	82½
Mead Corp	30½	31
MediaOne Group	44½	44
Medtrust Corp	25½	25½
Medtronic	67	67½
Mellon Bk	73½	72½
Merck Inc	131½	132
Merrill Lynch	103	104½
Microsoft	110½	111
Minnesota Mine	80½	81½
Mirage Resorts	21	21½
Mobil Corp	74½	75½
Monsanto	52	53½
Morgan (JP)	125	124½
Motorola Inc	52	52½
Mylan Labs	33	33
Natl Semi	12½	12
Natl Service Ind	54½	54
Navistar Int	29	29½
NY Times A	39	40
Newmont Mng	21	22
Nike B	50½	51½
NL Industries	20½	20½
Nordstrom	35½	37½
Norfolk Sthrn	29½	29½
Nthn State Pwr	28	28½
Norwest Corp	38	38½
Occidental Pet	25½	25½
Office Depot	35½	35½

	Jul 10 midday	Jul 9 close
Oracle	24½	24½
Oryx Energy Co	21	21½
Owens Corning	42	42
PPG Industries	67½	67½
PMI Group	74½	73½
PNC Bank	57½	58
PP&L Res	22	22½
Paccar Inc	49½	49½
Pacificorp	21½	21½
PaineWebber	47½	46½
Pall Corp	19½	20½
Parker Hannifin	34½	34½
Peco Energy	29	29½
Penney (JC)	65½	65½
Pennzoil	52	52½
Pepsico	41½	41½
Pfizer	114½	115½
Pharm & Upjhn	48½	47½
Phelps Dodge	55½	55½
Philip Morris	39½	39½
Phillips Pet	48½	48½
Pitney Bowes	50½	51½
Polaroid	35½	34½
Procter & Gmbl	90½	90½
Providian	82½	82½
Pub Serv E & G	33½	33½
Quaker Oats	55½	55½
Ralston Purina	110½	111½
Raychem Corp	30½	30½
Raytheon B	58½	58½
Reebok Intl	28	28½
Reliastar Fin	50½	50½
Reynolds Metals	50½	53½
Rockwell Intl	49½	46½
Rohm & Haas	97½	97½
Royal Dutch	53½	53½
Rubbermaid	32½	31½
SBC Comms	39½	39½
Safeco Corp	46½	48½
St Paul's Cos	42	43½
Sara Lee Corp	56½	56½
Schering Plough	96½	97½
Schlumberger	66½	67½
Seagram	40	40½
Sears Roebuck	57	59½
Shell Trans	40	40½
Sherwin Wlms	34½	33½
Silicon Graphics	12	12½
Snap-On-Tools	36½	36½
Southern Co	27½	27½
Southtrust	42½	42½
Sprint Corp	74½	74
Stanley Works	41½	41½
Starwood H & R	48½	49
Sun Company	38½	38½
Sun Microsys	45½	45½
Suntrust	83½	84½
Supervalu	46½	46½
Synovus Fin	24½	25
Sysco Corp	25½	25½
TRW Inc	56½	56½
TJG Hldgs	23½	23½
Tandy Corp	54½	53
Temple Inland	52	53½
Tenet Healthcare	28½	28½
Tenneco	36½	36½
Texaco	58½	58½
Texas Inst	58½	58½
Texas Utilities	41½	41½
Textron	73½	73½
Thermo Elect	29½	30½
Time Warner	85½	86½
Times-Mirror A	62½	62½
Timken	29½	29½
Torchmark	44½	45½
Toys R Us	23½	23½
Transamerica	118½	118½
Travelers	68½	68½
Tribune	72½	72
Tyco Int	64½	64½
UST Inc	28½	28½
US Bancorp	45½	45½
UAL	89½	89½
Unicom	68½	68½
US Inds	18½	19
US West	50½	50½
USAirways Group	79½	80½
USX Marathon	34½	35½
Unicom	35½	35½
Unilever NV	76½	75½
Union Camp	45½	46½
Union Carbide	53½	53½
Union Pacific	42½	42½
Unisys Corp	27½	28½
United Tech	94½	95½
Unocal Corp	34½	35½
VF Corp	50½	51
Venator Group	17½	17½
Wal-Mart Stores	63½	63½
Warner-Lambert	73½	73½
Waste Mngmt	37½	37½
Wells Fargo	382	380
Weyerhaeuser	45½	44
Whirlpool	67½	67½
Whitman	21½	22
Winn Dixie	40½	48½
Witco Corp	28½	28½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	98½	98½
Xerox	107½	108½
Xilinx Inc	37½	37½

THE TIMES TODAY SATURDAY JULY 11 1998

NEWS

Draper 'sold access to Mandelson'

■ Derek Draper, who triggered the row over the Government's link to lobbyists, has described selling businessmen access to Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle for £150 a time. He paid the proceeds into his own private company. More than 100 businessmen and lobbyists took advantage of the offer to meet Mr Mandelson and discuss ideas. Three separate meetings generated more than £15,000 in ticket sales..... **Pages 1, 18**

Blair sets up emergency Drumcree talks

■ Desperate efforts were under way to prevent an eruption of violence in Northern Ireland this weekend. Tony Blair's chief of staff wrote to both sides in the Drumcree stand-off asking them to attend "proximity" talks at 9am today..... **Pages 1, 2**

World Cup hopes

World Cup organisers, desperate to reduce forecast losses of £130 million, are hoping to cash in on France's first appearance in a final tomorrow..... **Pages 1, 17**

Tiger for supper

A TV show's blind food-tasting dish proved to be Bengal tiger — an endangered species..... **Page 3**

Gender swap

Parents of 1,500 pupils at a successful comprehensive were told this week that as from next term Lisa Garside, their drama teacher, will be Michael..... **Page 4**

Closing doors

Simpson of Piccadilly, the art deco store that has clothed generations of well-heeled gentlemen since 1936, is closing..... **Page 5**

Cutting up ruff

Dogwalkers of Kensington Gardens are furious over plans for a garden there in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales..... **Page 6**

Lost memories

The century's last decades will be seen as an era of purple lawns and red skies thanks to the short life of photographic dyes..... **Pages 8, 9**

Poison alert

The food-taster of the late Marshal Tito has warned President Milosevic of Yugoslavia against poisoned meals..... **Page 13**

War fears grow

The chances of a Middle East war next year have increased dramatically, according to an annual assessment by Israel's military intelligence..... **Page 13**

Electric shock

Outrage grew over a Californian judge's use of an electric stun belt to silence a defendant..... **Page 16**

Face to face

It was a story waiting to happen: this week's exclusive in *The Sun* revealed Prince William had come face to face with his father's mistress..... **Page 19**

Cult trio sign up DiCaprio for new film

■ Hollywood's hottest heartthrob, Leonardo DiCaprio — an international household name since *Titanic* — is being cast as a backpacker in a film to be shot by the cult trio that made two of Britain's biggest movie successes, *Trainspotting* and *Shallow Grave*..... **Page 1**

CORINNE DUFKA / REUTERS



Some of Chief Mashood Abiola's many "wives" at a funeral feast in their Lagos home. His body awaits a post-mortem examination. **Page 16**

NEWS FEATURES

Icon exposed: Marguerite Duras, the French writer revered as a national literary monument, collaborated with the Nazis and then obscured the truth, according to a biography that has ignited an intense historical and literary debate..... **Page 14**

Seven years on: Stars of the Granada documentary *Seven Up* are back. Thirty-five years ago a cross-section of youngsters made their debut to a backdrop of the Beatles and Mary Quant. Now 42, their lives are still being chronicled every seven years..... **Page 10**

OPINION

Wanted: a portfolio: Mandelson needs to prove he can run a department..... **Page 21**

Diana's Bill: The Anti-Personnel Mines Bill passed all its Commons stages in under five hours. Rarely has populism so clearly dictated policy..... **Page 21**

Passing a journey: Curmudgeons may turn their noses up at minibooks. Fie on them!..... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Role of lobbyists; new education Bill; Srebrenica war crimes..... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Lawrence James: Lawrence (of Arabia) and the Princess of Wales were historical figures of considerable importance and influence. As such they must be assessed dispassionately..... **Page 20**

Ben Macintyre: Not since the Liberation has Paris witnessed such unrestrained joy on the streets..... **Page 20**

OBITUARY

Lili Alvarez, Spanish tennis player and feminist; **Lucia Valentini Terrani,** Italian *mezzo soprano*; **Kay Thompson,** US actress..... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Your tax: About 400,000 people have yet to file self-assessment forms..... **Page 25**

Bad bet?: Donald Trump has given up a year-long attempt to sell his troubled Atlantic City casinos..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 40.0 points to close at 5929.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell to 105.5 after a rise to $1.6322 but a fall to DM2.9682..... **Page 29**

MAKING MONEY

Best-buy European Peps; Virgin in row with fund managers over Isas..... **Pages 51-60**

SPORT

World Cup: The France-Brazil final has been distilled into a battle between the best attack and the best defence..... **Pages 31-38**

Motor racing: David Coulthard led at Silverstone's practice..... **Page 39**

Cricket: Leicestershire, the first Benson and Hedges Cup holders, strive to win the last final against Essex today..... **Page 43**

GO

Star scars: Lending a celebrity a car can rebound on makers..... **Page 49**

SECTIONS

the times

Cover story: How the Sundance Kid was whispered back into the saddle..... **Page 18**

Ultimate fix: Can this wonderdrug cure all addictions?..... **Page 27**

Fun circuit: The Silverstone show spills off the track..... **Page 36**

metro

Win: Tickets to see Pulp in Finsbury Park..... **Page 4**

Big interview: Jay Kay of Jamiroquai..... **Page 6**

Spud and ...: Ewen Bremner reappears — in *Mojo*..... **Pages 14, 15**

Snap happier: Paul Salmon's photo masterclass..... **Pages 24, 25**

WEEKEND

Viagra: A small blue pill that's the medicine of the moment..... **Page 1**

In gear: London's Men's Fashion Week..... **Page 5**

My garden: with Jane Seymour..... **Page 9**

Property: Buy that home with friends..... **Page 16**

Travel: Florida gives all-clear as rain dampens fires..... **Page 28**

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

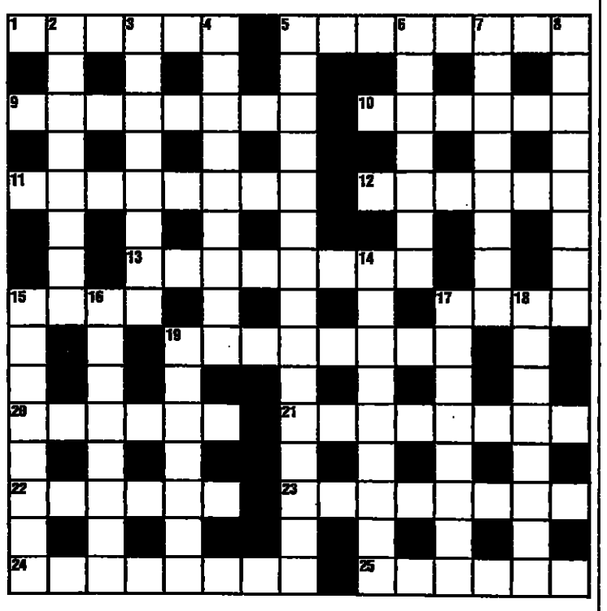
go

Hot stuff! — the energy busters of tomorrow

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,841

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 Sign for the swimming class (6).
5 Take advantage of easy win (8).
9 Put tar under vessel (8).
10 A couple of lines in atrocious poetry (6).
11 Mountain making German woman shrink at first (8).
12 Slowly going round a shed (6).
13 The early reform could be so tough (8).
15 Girl seized in enemy raid (4).
17 Learner in academic stream still (4).
19 Shaft mostly dark? Mostly (4-4).
20 Bird is spotted, sitting in hide (6).
21 Friar's dance scoffed at by schoolkids (4-4).
22 Recruit that's stationed near castle (6).
23 Be detained by one searching the ground for drink (4,4).
24 One looks after animals — a dog, if German (8).
25 'ad REM, possibly, towards end of night? (6).

DOWN

2 Bias not excluded by players' association (8).
3 Roman tyrant, one put by state over parts of Gaul (8).
4 Way to publicise crate's flight etc. (9).
5 Comfortable with large corporation? (4-11).
6 King oddly overlooking an extremely wicked activity (7).
7 Port — very alcoholic drink new to US agents (8).
8 In an amateurish way, one makes waves (5,3).
14 Uncordial characters that could threaten to stop play (4-5).
15 Sizes of hands and feet, say (8).
16 Puts a lot of stress on pen (4,4).
17 It's not usually usable *after* church (8).
18 Union leader in one mill organised material for shop floor, perhaps (8).
19 Rather faint ambition to secure success (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20835

T	H	U	M	B	S	C	R	E	W		C	U	F	F
	E		O		H		A		O		Q		E	
R	A	I	N	D	R	O	P		R	E	L	E	N	T
	D		T		I		H		S		L		C	
A	S	T	E	R	N		A	V	E	R	A	G	E	D
	T			K		E		P						
D	O	O	M		A	L	L	T	H	E	S	A	M	E
	N		A		G			O		E		O		
D	E	A	D	L	E	T	T	E	R		D	A	D	O
		H			H		O		E					
P	R	E	A	C	H	E	R		S	E	V	E	R	E
	O		T		E		C		O		A			
P	U	N	T	E	R		A	P	O	S	T	A	T	E
	G		E		O		D		P		E		O	
C	H	A	R		D	R	Y	M	E	A	S	U	R	E

Solution to Puzzle No 20840

I	M	P	E	L		C	R	U	S	T	A	C	E	A
N		O		E		H		N		A		O		G
C	H	E	V	A	L	I	E	R		K	E	N	D	O
U		R		L		I		E		C		G		
B	A	G	A	N	D	B	A	G	G	A	G	E		
A		E		S		L		R		N		C		
T	O	O	L		P	A	R	I	S	M	A	T	C	H
O		A		I		L		S		R		I		
R	I	G	H	T	A	N	G	L	E		P	A	U	L
S		E		N		H		C		T		D		
	C	L	O	S	E	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	S	
K		R		T		L		M		O		P		
N	A	O	M	I		F	O	O	T	P	E	D	A	L
E		S		M		I		U		U		A		
E	A	S	T	E	R	N	E	R		P	I	E	T	Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *S Haynes, Princes Risborough, Bucks; K McSweeney, North Road, Brighton; P Holden, Lower Green, Tewin, Herts; A K Bromley, Woking, Surrey; J Glover, Malvern, Worcs.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY
Sun rises: 4.56 am — Sun sets: 9.15 pm
Moon sets 7.00 am — Moon rises 10.18 pm
Last quarter July 16
London 9.15 pm to 4.57 am
Bristol 9.25 pm to 5.07 am
Edinburgh 9.54 pm to 4.43 am
Manchester 9.35 pm to 4.55 am
Penzance 9.30 pm to 5.26 am

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 4.56 am — Sun sets: 9.15 pm
Moon sets 8.12 am — Moon rises 10.49 pm
Last quarter July 16
London 9.15 pm to 4.58 am
Bristol 9.24 pm to 5.08 am
Edinburgh 9.53 pm to 4.46 am
Manchester 9.34 pm to 4.56 am
Penzance 9.29 pm to 5.27 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:04	4.2	2:26	4.1
Avonmouth	8:11	13.0	8:31	13.3
Belfast	-	-	12:04	3.3
Cardiff	7:57	12.0	8:17	12.3
Devonport	6:47	5.3	7:03	5.5
Dover	-	-	12:02	6.6
Dublin	0:12	4.0	12:42	3.8
Falmouth	6:18	5.1	6:34	5.3
Greenock	1:25	3.4	1:42	3.2
Harwich	0:39	3.9	12:56	3.9
Holyhead	11:21	5.3	11:37	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	7:11	8.5	7:39	8.4
Ilfracombe	6:54	8.9	7:14	9.1
King's Lynn	7:16	6.6	7:45	6.4
Leith	3:30	5.4	3:54	5.4
Liverpool	-	-	12:15	9.2
London Bridge	2:44	7.1	3:01	7.2
Lowestoft	10:20	2.6	10:55	2.4
Margate	0:51	4.7	1:07	4.8
Milford Haven	7:08	6.7	7:28	6.9
Newquay	5:59	6.7	6:19	6.9
Oban	6:38	3.8	7:00	4.0
Penzance	5:28	5.2	5:51	5.5
Portland	8:10	1.9	8:30	2.1
Portsmouth	-	-	12:25	4.6
Shoreham	-	-	12:18	6.1
Southampton	11:45	4.5	-	-
Swansea	7:19	9.2	7:37	9.4
Tees	4:32	6.4	5:00	5.3
Walton-On-Naze	0:30	4.1	12:46	4.1

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 23C (73F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: Machrihanish, Argyll and Bute, 0.36in, highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, 8.9hr.

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Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** heavy rain will move early into Wales and southwest England, spreading east to central parts by late morning and then into eastern England in the afternoon. Northern Ireland and northern England will have a mix of sun and showers, but with little afternoon sunshine. Scotland will have sunny spells and showers, with steadier rain on Shetland.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** early sun, then rain. Moderate W to SW wind. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **Central S, E England, E&W Midlands:** rain from the late morning. Light to moderate W to SW wind. Max 21C (70C).

☐ **Channel Isles:** misty with drizzle. Fresh SW wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **SW England, S&N Wales:** rain setting in early. Fresh SW wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **NW, Central N, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** sunny spells, showers in afternoon. Moderate W to SW wind. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** sunny spells and showers. Moderate W wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** Showery. Moderate W wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** Wet. Light W wind. Max 13C (55F).

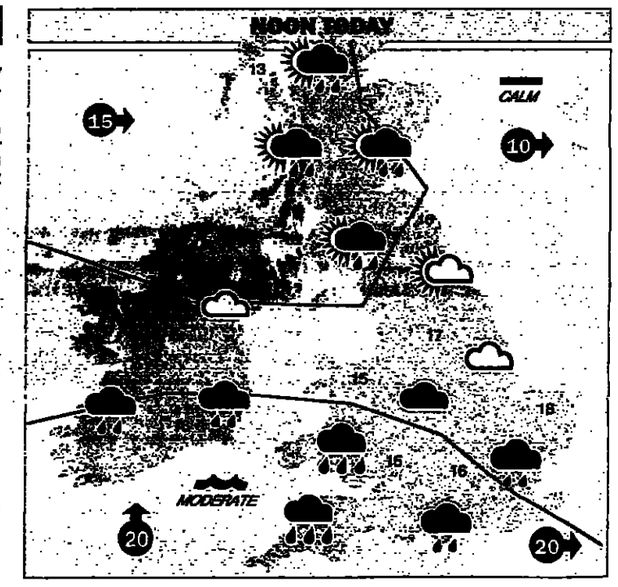
☐ **N Ireland:** showers early, then sunny breaks. Light and variable wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Outlook:** windy with heavy rain for most parts tomorrow. Cool with sunny spells and showers on Monday.

☐ **Pollen forecast, today:** high in NE, SE and Central S England; moderate elsewhere.

Tomorrow: low in all areas.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

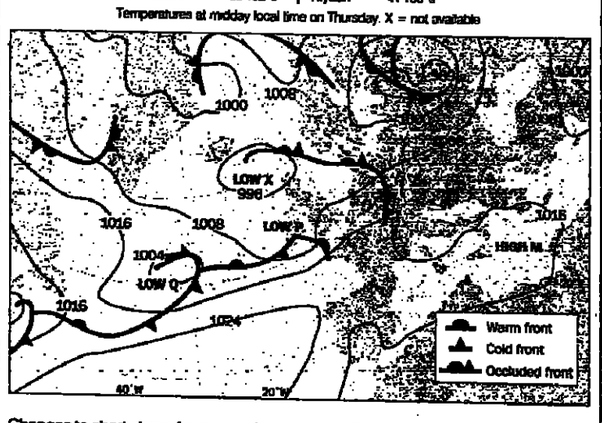
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X				
Anglesey	5.5	-	17	63	b
Aspatria	5.5	0.01	17	63	sh
Aviemore	4.7	0.01	18	61	c
Belfast	3.3	0.04	18	64	sh
Birmingham	3.3	0.02	21	70	b
Bognor R	5.6	-	19	66	s
Bournem'th	5.3	-	21	70	s
Bristol	5.2	0.03	19	66	b
Buxton	7.0	0.01	19	66	s
Cardiff	X	0.04	20	68	b
Clacton	X	-	19	66	b
Cleethorpes	7.4	-	22	72	s
Colwyn Bay	4.9	-	19	66	b
Cromer	6.9	-	20	68	s
Dunbar	4.7	-	18	64	b
Eastbourne	3.2	0.01	19	66	s
Edinburgh	2.6	0.02	18	64	sh
Eskdalemuir	3.7	0.01	15	59	c
Exmouth	2.4	-	20	68	c
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	5.7	0.01	17	63	d
Folkestone	1.6	-	21	70	c
Glasgow	3.1	0.02	17	63	r
Guernsey	2.9	0.01	19	66	c
Hastings	3.3	-	20	68	s
Hayling I.	6.5	-	20	68	s
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	3.0	-	19	66	b
Hunstanton	4.7	-	21	70	s
Isle of Man	8.7	-	18	64	b
Isle of Wight	4.9	0.01	18	64	s
Jersey	4.5	0.01	19	66	c
Kinloss	2.7	0.01	17	63	r
Leeds	8.1	-	21	70	b
Lerwick	5.0	0.01	14	57	sh
Lauchars	1.7	-	17	63	c
Littlehmptn	X				
London	3.3	0.01	21	70	b
Lowestoft	8.4	0.01	20	68	b
Manchester	4.0	0.01	20	68	b
Margate	1.8	0.01	21	70	du
Minehead	X				
Morecambe	8.9	-	18	64	s
Newcastle	8.7	0.01	20	68	sh
Newquay	X				
Norwich	6.7	0.01	21	70	s
Oxford	4.1	0.01	21	70	r
Penzance	X	0.02	19	66	d
Poole	5.1	0.01	23	73	s
Prestatyn	X	-	19	66	s
Ross on Wye	5.9	0.01	21	70	b
Salcombe	2.1	0.01	19	66	c
Saunton Snd	0.8	-	18	64	du
Scarboro'	6.8	-	20	68	b
Shrewsbury	8.4	0.01	20	68	s
Skegness	5.7	-	21	70	s
Southend	4.2	-	21	70	c
Southport	X	0.01	18	64	b
Southsea	6.3	-	20	68	du
Stornoway	5.1	0.03	16	61	sh
Swanage	6.6	-	19	66	s
Teignmouth	4.2	-	18	64	c
Tenby	4.6	0.02	18	64	d
Tiree	1.0	0.07	15	59	sh
Torquay	2.8	0.01	18	64	b
Tynemouth	X				
Weston s Mare	X				
Weymouth	7.8	-	19	66	b

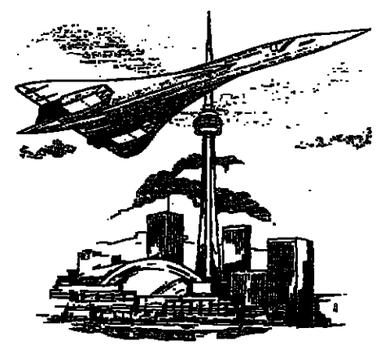
ABROAD

Ajaccio	25	77	s	Cologne	17	63	c	Madrid	30	86	s
Alcrotiri	28	82	s	Corfu	25	77	s	Majorca	27	81	f
Alex'dria	29	84	s	C'phagn	14	57	r	Malaga	27	81	s
Algiers	28	82	s	Dublin	18	64	s	Malta	26	82	s
Amst'dm	16	61	d	Dubrovnik	24	75	s	Melb'rne	8	46	f
Athens	32	90	f	Faro	25	77	s	Mexico C	20	68	f
B Aires	16	61	s	Florence	27	81	s	Miami	32	90	s
Bahrain	39	102	s	Frankfurt	16	61	c	Milan	26	79	s
Bangkok	31	88	f	Funchal	23	73	s	Montreal	24	75	s
Barbados	30	86	f	Geneva	21	70	r	Moscow	21	70	f
Barcelona	25	77	s	Gibraltar	22	72	s	Munich	18	64	f
Beijing	27	81	c	Helsinki	19	66	f	N Delhi	32	90	f
Beirut	28	82	f	Hong K	28	82	c	N York	27	81	s
Belgrade	17	63	c	Innsbrck	16	61	r	Nairobi	19	66	c
Berlin	17	63	r	Istanbul	16	61	f	Naples	27	81	s
Bermuda	29	84	f	Jeddah	36	97	s	Nice	26	79	s
Biarritz	19	66	c	Jo'burg	16	61	c	Oslo	18	61	r
Borde'x	20	68	c	L Angels	22	72	s	Paris	18	64	c
Brussels	17	63	c	L Palmas	25	77	s	Perth	17	63	s
Budapst	19	66	f	Le Touet	16	61	f	Prague	16	61	c
Cairo	32	90	s	Lisbon	26	79	s	Reykjavik	11	52	s
Cape Tn	12	54	c	Locarno	22	72	f	Rhodes	28	79	s
Ch'church	7	45	X	Luxembg	14	57	c	Rio de J	23	73	f
Chicago	26	79	s	Luxor	39	102	s	Riyadh	41	106	s
Rome	29	84	s
S Fr'isco	13	55	f
Salzburg	13	55	f
Santiago	20	68	s
Seoul	24	75	r
Sing'por	30	86	f
St'kholm	24	75	s
Strasb'rg	19	66	c
Sydney	13	55	s
Tangier	26	79	s
Tel Aviv	31	88	s
Tenerife	27	81	s
Tokyo	33	91	s
Toronto	28	82	f
Tunis	29	84	f
Valencia	27	81	s
Vanc'ver	20	68	s
Venice	25	77	s
Vienna	17	63	s
Warsaw	17	63	c
Wash'ton	27	81	s
Wel'ngton	14	57	c
Zurich	17	63	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low X and low P move east with little change; low Q deepens as it moves northeast across the UK; high M persists over Mediterranean



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ON TODAY



UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

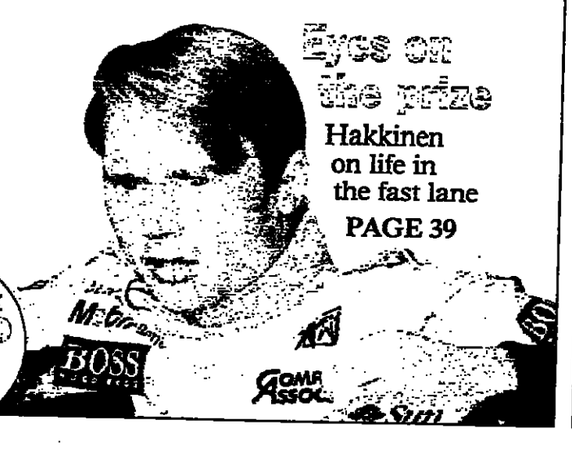
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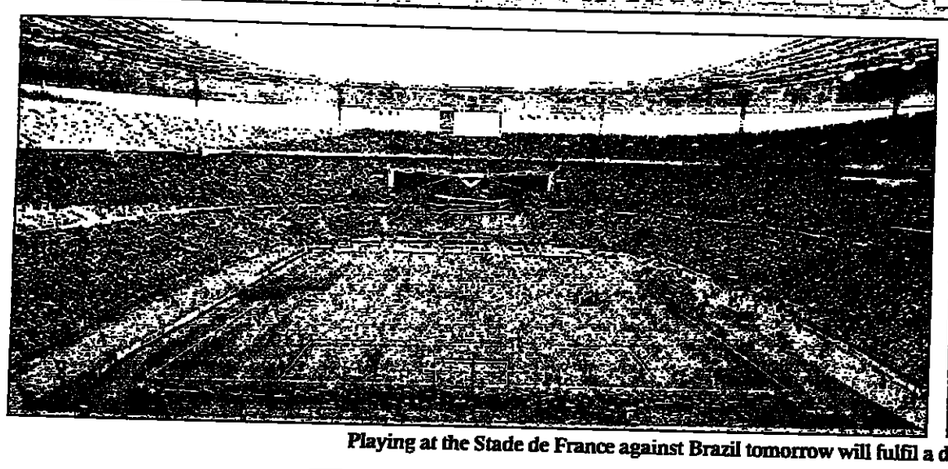
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THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT
16 PAGES
JULY 11 1998

FRANK LEBOEUF ON HIS DREAM COME TRUE







Playing at the Stade de France against Brazil tomorrow will fulfil a dream and help Leboeuf to get over the embarrassment of being pictured wearing Bilic's shirt



'Tomorrow I play in the World Cup final'

For better or worse, I shall never be able to saunter down the Champs-Elysées again as I did a fortnight ago with my family. A day earlier, I had played for my country in the World Cup against Denmark and yet, of the 20 people who stopped me for an autograph, 15 were English and a few were from Spain. A couple, at most, were French, but I have a feeling those days of anonymity are about to end.

Tomorrow I play in the World Cup final. It is a sentence I have repeated to myself more than a few times in the past couple of days and it still takes some getting used to. I could turn to the newspapers or television for confirmation but I cannot say I am rushing to seek news from the outside world. I know some people are worried about me. I know they are out there questioning if I can play at the highest level — and you do not get any higher than a World Cup final against Brazil.

They were confident about Laurent Blanc and now I am at the heart of the defence in the biggest game in France's history. Of course the doubts are disappointing and some players might let it get to them, but I am confident. I have that self-belief. It is not fear that keeps me awake. If I am taking sleeping pills — and I will tonight — it is because I dream restlessly of winning the World Cup, not because of nightmares at facing Ronaldo.

They are dreams I have not had since I was a child. How could I expect to play in a World Cup final when I did not make my international debut until three years ago at the age of 27? When I was 20 I could not even find a professional club that wanted me. I had to spend time out of the game selling sports kit. Success came late for me, so you can understand why this means so much.

Even to me, it seems unbelievable, but I cannot afford to dwell on it. I must not think too deeply about how hard it must be for Laurent, whose dismissal against Croatia has so unfairly ended his World Cup and given me this incredible opportunity.

Of course it was a harsh decision, but I would not have been human if I had not seen the red card and felt elated at the chance it gave me. It is how you seize the opportunity that counts and Yannick Noah, a close friend of mine, has taught me well about patience. Like anyone born in Marseilles, I have hot Latin blood. But I feel cool. I feel ready.

I must clear up one unfortunate matter that arose from Laurent's dismissal. I absent-mindedly swapped shirts with Slaven Bilic, whose fall to the ground provoked the red card. I have nothing against Slaven, but it is embarrassing to see the pictures of us shaking hands. I have not spoken to Laurent properly since that moment. In the dressing-room afterwards he showed great dignity, joining in the celebrations, but I have felt it best to stay silent. What can I say to him that will help?

This time I am not sure I will swap shirts if we win, although each player is given two for the game. I shall definitely keep one for my father, André. If we lose I will feel like burning both.

My whole family will be in the Stade de France. I have paid for 16 people to fly over and watch the game, including my wife, Béatrice, and our two young children, Hugo and Jade. Hugo's first question when he was told he was going to the final was: "Can I watch that team who plays in yellow?" A Brazil supporter! The kids do not understand. As far as they are concerned, all dads play football and appear on television. I just pray I bring them home a winner's medal, and that the match does not go to penalties, although I shall be ready. Youri Djorkaeff will be the first to take one and I will be second in line. As for free kicks, I doubt it. I took one near the end of the semi-final but, believe it or not, I was under orders to miss. Time was running out and we could not afford for the Croatia goalkeeper to save it and launch a counter-attack, so I aimed it ten yards over the bar. At least that's my story.

Most of my attention will be at the other end and, inevitably, the small matter of how Marcel Desailly and I, team-mates at Chelsea next season, will stop Ronaldo. There is no point in getting paranoid about him. One thing we will not do is trail him when he drops deep. Others must pick him up then because his skill is to drop back and create space for others. We will keep to our zones and the nearest man must take him. It that is me, so be it.

Of course he is a fantastic player but he has been showing signs of wear and tear and he may be carrying an injury. He has played so many games for a young man and under so much strain. We will do our preparation thoroughly, but we will not sit and fret.

The most important thing is to relax at our beautiful castle in Clairefontaine and try to stay fresh amid the monotony of eating, sleeping, training, eating, sleeping etc. I have just finished a book, *Ramses*, about the pharoahs. Now I am about to start a second about another foreign legend with funny hair — Ruud Gullit.

I just want to keep myself busy. I went fishing yesterday morning with some of the guys and landed two hefty perch, the biggest catch of the day. Everywhere, you are looking for good omens. I am a great believer in destiny — probably more than ever after this week — but I also know I must grab this unique chance. It is not enough for me to be playing in a World Cup final, however fortunate. I want to win it.

I could retire at the end of my football career. I have a beautiful home near Richmond Park, a Porsche in the garage, and what better way to spend your days than playing with your children? But I will want to work because I am ambitious, competitive. The same instincts that will bring the best out of me tomorrow.

I know if we lose I could take the blame. I have suddenly, and unexpectedly, come into a strong French team. But it is not fear that will drive me on. It is a belief that we can win. It is the biggest day in my career, one that could change my life for ever. This is my chance.

☐ *Frank Leboeuf writes regularly about life on and off the pitch for* The Times.

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If the World Cup is driving you In Seine

The **Tour de France** starts today, LIVE at 4.30pm
The **World Cup** play-off, LIVE at 8.00pm



EUROSPORT

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WORLD CUP 98

Beware day when fantasy football turns into nightmare

DANNY BAKER



A competition on the radio announces its winner. The prize is a trip to the British Grand Prix tomorrow (Hurray!). Followed by a helicopter flight to attend the World Cup final (Hurray!). Then on to an official banquet with a chance to meet the winning team (Hurr . . . oh . . .).

This is an awful trick to play on somebody possibly enjoying the happiest day of their lives. Talk about fate slipping some lead into its boxing glove. Nobody, certainly no true sports fan, can ever come away from a meeting with their idols with anything but egg on their face. Footballers are rarely gracious hosts and, off the field, hunt in packs.

I have found that if anyone over the age of 7 is introduced into their orbit and displays any symptoms of being "a fan", they may as well attach a "Kick Me Hard" sign to their trouser seat in advance. All those overwhelming feelings of awe and inadequacy that most of us thought we'd shed the moment we put away the Emerson, Lake and Palmer albums come flooding back on meeting the lowliest full back from a professional club.

Hoping to appear an equal and equally casual, you become embroiled in the driest dissections of the modern game, overcompensating with every reflex to prove you talk the talk like a fellow pro and will get a good 20 minutes into the pow-wow before you realise this bunch of overpaid teenagers smirking at the bar are actually sending you up like a Standard firework.

Footballers do not get on with civilians as a rule and that's that. So many good youth team prospects drop out before the professional stage because, though they can sail through the practical, they simply can't hack the mental and communal portion of the exams. The Pat Nevins and Eamonn Dunphys are rare indeed, perhaps only surviving because their intellects were indulged gag-fashion within the group, much as La Di Dah Gunner Graham was tolerated by the other concert party members in *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*.

I know of one former Tottenham pro who, wary in case his love of complicated rock music should enrage his chums, learnt how to buy two copies of the *New Musical Express* each week. One he would let his team-mates "find" before training and dump in the shower, the other would be kept beneath a false bottom in his kit bag, safe for the train journey home. This he did for two whole years.

But I digress into squad politics and away from the perils of allowing fans access to the teams. The cautionary tale I wish to tell happened to a man named Bernard. Bernard won a competition that allowed him to be guest of honour at a Cystal Palace home game. He was to have transport to and from the match, the best seats, even a free lunch including wine. However, he also had the chance to meet the players and have a commemorative photograph taken. In accepting this portion of the windfall he signed his own social death warrant.

John Motson during the second semi: "It looks like France are through and I think even if you're English, once your team went out, this is what you would have wanted and licked your lips over." Yes, the age-old love between England and France — spot-on again Motty boy!

Presenting himself after the fixture, Bernard was taken down several gloomy corridors before being pointed toward a Formica door behind which, he was told, awaited the first-team squad and manager. He knocked on it politely and, after a short silence, heard the voice of none other than Steve Coppell bidding him come in.

Bernard pushed the door and it refused to move. He pushed again and again, but the door held fast. By the lay of the frame he could see it wasn't worth pulling it but, sensing the first rumblings of panic, did so anyway. Nothing. By now the choruses of "Come in" were starting to overlap and rise in volume. Feeling the "lads" may be blocking his entrance, he lent against the door and shoved hard. At this the bottom portion of the door gave way and Bernard wedged his foot in there to bolster this daylight.

He was now locked in a titanic struggle with the Formica blocking his way and, feeling that here was some trail of valour that perhaps all competition winners were tested with but few met head-on, began actually to attempt entry of the royal chamber underneath the jamming fixture. With much grunting, groaning, straining and pinning back of Formica to its very limits he scuttled through the gap and just cleared the base of the door before it snapped back into position with a ferocious crack.

Bernard, unabashed, then leapt to his feet and theatrically yelped: "Ta-da! You can't keep me out!" But instead of the good-natured applause and slap on the back that he felt his perilous limbo had deserved, he stared upon six or seven members of the first team, along with Coppell, all standing arms folded and looking blankly at him like some disapproving Mount Rushmore.

"What was all that about?" Coppell asked dryly after a lengthy pause.

"Hey hey!" Bernard bubbled, sensing the act wasn't going over too socko, "it takes more than a jammed door to keep me away from my Eagles!"

"It's not jammed. It's a sliding door you pillock . . .

At which point the photographer smoothly entered without fuss.

Bernard says that in the ensuing shot, which he still has but rarely has the courage to look at these days, his face is crimson with both the recent endeavour and the depth of his humiliation. He wears the smile of someone on the verge of hysteria and appears to be swallowing something hard and jagged. Everybody else has a completely straight face.

Of course, as he overelaborately rolled the door sideways on his exit, he tried to regain some stature but by then the team were all facing away chatting among themselves. Within the first few steps along the corridor without, however, he heard the expected peels of thunderous laughter that rang in his ears all the way to the now mocking courtesy car.

I do not recount this story as an example of the callousness of any one club, nor to suggest that Bernard was in any way victimised by Crystal Palace. It is simply typical of the inevitable pitfalls to be expected when fan fantasy overlaps into football reality and, as Oscar observed, we finally get what we wish for.

Because if a modest outfit such as Palace can exploit a chap's innocent social gaffing and make him feel like a grade A piece of cheese, should we really feel pleased that, tomorrow, some poor sap will be aimed toward the top table armed only with a little inane small talk with which to engage the brand new champions of the world?



Kasey Keller



Terry Mancini



Ray Wilson



Butch Wilkins



Johnny Metgod



Steve Stone



Clive Walker



Zinedine Zidane



Alan Gilzean

A salute to those who baldly go . .

While acknowledging that this column has already taken a hirsute turn elsewhere, I feel we must indulge the subject just a little more. While pondering upon the natural tonsure of France's underachieving superstar Zidane (You're Rocking The Boat), I fell to wondering why it is that soccer, overall, traditionally has so few bald players. I am not talking about the fashionably shaved here, but the kind of matter-of-fact, nothing-to-hide male pattern baldness that one might see anywhere.

A few weeks back I wrote upon the sudden and surprising alopecia that has alighted on Kasey Keller, the United States and Leicester City goalkeeper, but even then I missed the bigger picture. Football is suspiciously not reflecting society in the hairloss stakes. Might there be a link between turning pro and the thatch's complete reluctance to jump ship?

Of course, some of our most famous stars are thinning — Alan Shearer's temples are moving over his pate like the Allies and Russians across Europe in 1945. Even Gazza sports a little half-crown round back — but whither the William Hagues, the David Nixons, the Joe Jacksons — those whose crowning glory is, as The Eagles put it, *Already Gone*? It is even difficult to rustle up a bald XI without resorting to the Internet. (slapsquad@lostit.spam.uk). My father and I have barely half a haircut between us and this is the best we could come up with:

Keller, Terry Mancini, Ray Wilson, Butch Wilkins, Johnny Metgod, Steve Stone, Clive Walker, Zinedine Zidane, Alan Gilzean, Bobby Charlton, Sailor Brown*. Manager: Howard Kendall.



Bobby Charlton



Howard Kendall

I'm sure there are more, but even then the numbers are piffling compared with what one sees among men in any other walk of life. I suppose I shall have to make allusions to some kind of cover-up here and invoke an excellent joke I saw on a recent series of *Made In Manchester*.

Did you know that Vidal Sassoon once told Sir Bobby Charlton that he could have any kind of avant-garde haute coiffure he wanted free of charge . . . but it just went over his head.

* Sailor Brown. Charlton c.1950. My father's contribution and possibly not bald at all, but most definitely called "Sailor" and, therefore, A Good Thing.

Excuse over light ball won't wash at the beach

How much more bellyaching must we endure about the lightness of the new ball in France? Quite obviously the weight of the ball is not crucial at all but is being used as a feeble smokescreen to cover up some of the most ill-judged legwork since Van Morrison danced on stage at the Hammersmith Apollo.

The World Cup has been going a month now and squads have been training with these balls for more than three months. I mean, how much lighter are they? Footballers are not precision tools working within a thousandth of an inch, so why are shots going so awry they are setting off alarms on parked Peugeots outside shopping malls a mile away.

Are we really supposed to believe that this missing half-ounce has acted upon certain internationals' calculations like treacle in the computer aboard the Hubble telescope? I am sure I speak for a great many when I say that if you really want to blame a light ball you should accompany any group of boozy men on a planned summer coach outing to the seaside.

Invariably on arrival at the coast it will be discovered that nobody has thought to bring a ball so somebody gets dispatched to buy one. I have yet to find a holiday resort that harbours even the humblest Mitre Special. All that is available are painted plastic efforts that hang in a nylon net with traditional beach balls outside shops that sell rock, postcards and buckets and spades.

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

Just because these balls are painted in the black hexagon pattern it is somehow believed they will act like the real thing, and time after time I personally have put my faith, along with £3.99, in one only to find it doubles back over the shoulder at the merest whisper of a breeze. Added to this is the fact that the chosen venue for the game is the gale-force beach front at Great Yarmouth and all in all you have the kind of fixture that might play merry hell with even the hardiest "technique".

Finally a furious attempt to teach the useless sphere a lesson is made by launching it out to sea but, of course, it blows back inland, possibly directly into the shop from which it was purchased, whereupon the owner wearily pops it back into the nylon net. I believe there are only a dozen of these balls in the country and they just keep getting resold to the latest influx of rubes straight off the coach.

So to all apologist commentators let me paraphrase a famous American congressman: I have known light balls. I have paid for light balls. I have worked with light balls. These are not a light ball.

9.45 pm tomorrow.
Rio goes in Seine.

(Ronaldo scores first and Brazil win 3-0, £20 pays £1220.)

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First player to score	France to win by 1-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	3-1
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Djorkaeff	£720	£1220	£1220	£3520	£3020
Leboeuf	£2020	£3020	£3020	£8520	£7520
Petit	£2020	£3020	£3020	£8520	£7520
Thuram	£3020	£5020	£4520	£11,020	£10,020

First player to score	Brazil to win by 1-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	3-1
Ronaldo	£300	£460	£420	£1220	£820
Bebeto	£680	£1020	£920	£2520	£1620
Rivaldo	£820	£1220	£1220	£3020	£2020
R. Carlos	£2020	£3020	£2520	£6020	£4520
Cafu	£3020	£4020	£3520	£8520	£6020

Choose the player who'll score first. Choose the final score. See what you'll win for your £20* stake. Good luck!
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5/6 Holland 5/2 Croatia 5/2 Draw
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Barthez, the face of Christmas

Quite a few readers take the time to bring to my attention footballers who, with a squint, look quite like celebrities in other fields. Of all those who send mail to this column it is they, I believe, who feel most overlooked when their pixieish observations fail to make it to print and quite often they will submit their contribution several times in the hope it will sneak aboard in one of my thinner weeks.

I am afraid such cunning is wasted: of all my obsessions and demands about football, I am most inflexible when it comes to the lookalike standard. It is not enough for a player to be simply identical to another human being. If this fast growing sub-sport is to flourish — perhaps one day into a professional event with staff and a governing body — then we must be constantly piercing the collective psyche with our daring choice of doppelgänger. Of all the startling comparisons available, none work half so well as when one is able to lump a familiar face of flesh and blood in with a creature who doesn't actually exist.

David Pleat as Mr Punch and David Platt as the mortal realisation of the pilchard on a tin of Glenryk's Pilchards — the staple of Sunday teatimes in working-class homes in the Sixties — are two examples. Now I have tremendous pleasure in adding a third to this premium band.



Barthez: fleshy canvas

Many of you may remember a toy common at Christmas a few years back that, I think I'm right in saying, never really had a name. It was a piece of card that had at its centre a Perspex window under which was a large staring face. The face was male and totally without hair. It was the aim of this pastime to add hair to this face by the skilful manoeuvring of a selection of loose iron filings that lay trapped at the base of the window.

The filings could be coralled via a special pen that had a magnet at its tip and that, luckily, came free with the game. Whether the man remained bald but bearded, mohawked and moustached or goateed with mutton-chop sideburns was entirely up to whoever wielded the pen.

I am sure most of you will now be ahead of me when I tell you on which shoulders this happy old head can be marvelled at today. Step forward Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, and his wonderfully glabrous bonce. I have noted before that some players really are pleasing just to look at — Carlos Valderrama, Taribo West, even the cadaverous Davor Suker — and we can certainly add Barthez to this role of unwitting performance artistes.

The recent attachment of a trimmed but definite "disc" beard only adds to the idea that, off the field, he acts as the fleshy canvas for somebody's dragged iron filings and if "his people" haven't yet entered the stagnant World Cup marketing arena with plans to revive this forgotten magnetic toy, then the venture capitalists within football are not blessed with a fraction of the acumen I had previously presumed.

A common language

Although the English may now have been driven from France, it was with some pride that I noted that the tournament simply cannot function without our influence. We remain in spirit.

I am sure I was not alone in noting that, during the semi-final between France and Croatia, as the two sides jostled in preparation for a corner, Asanovic turned to Emmanuel Petit and clearly said, "Why don't you f* off you little w*****, to which Petit replied 'No, you f*** off'."**

Two Nations, Two Mother Tongues, One Common Language. I wept for what might have been.

Getting in twist over Shout

The official television ratings for the second week of the World Cup have been released and splendid reading they make. Only an edition of *EastEnders* at No 6 upsets the solid football showings in the top ten. I intend to have this list enlarged to the size of a five-storey house and delivered to the home of an old bore recently given airtime on Carlton TV in London.

This appalling old curmudgeon was twice featured on a spot called *Your Shout*, one of those embarrassing open-door exercises with which broadcasters hope to create the illusion that anyone can make a TV programme.

Our man railed against the recent feast of televised sport by stating repeatedly that football was a minority interest because only nine million tuned in for the opening Brazil v Scotland game — afternoon kick-off, by the way — and nine million set against the national population was ruddy chickenfeed. It's a minority, he kept saying, why are we held hostage by this minority? Blimmin' bloody minority!

He was allowed to froth in this way, totally unchecked and unchallenged, for about a thousand years. At no point was the old crank let in on the idea that he was talking about television, not a national census, and that the reason he was without his *Emmerdale* was because cocked hat makers had not yet created a piece of headwear sufficient to cushion the blow into which his preferred viewing had been knocked. Now I know the World Cup, *The Times* and presumably you or I are big enough to enjoy the greatest game in the world without coming down like a ton of bricks on every lone-nut dissenting voice.

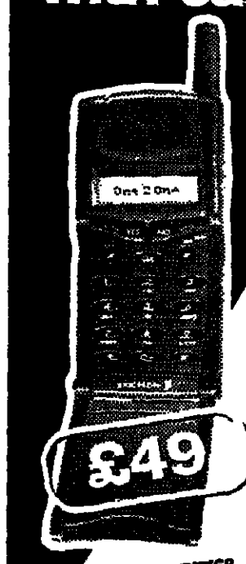
Yet you forget one thing. That I am a control freak bordering on the fascistic and when I come to power I will have people like the man on *Your Shout* hunted down by dogs and publicly whipped within an inch of their miserable sport-hating lives.

Nice One, Mr Spiro

Many letters have arrived saying that after the tear-jerking tale last week of the True Story of *We're On The Ball*, England's unofficial anthem in France, they have lost the will to carry on.

However, I can now give the story — man writes great song, song flops, three decades on man passes away six months before song is embraced as the people's anthem — an upbeat twist. It seems that not long after *We're On The Ball* hit the bottom of the charts, our Mr Spiro wrote Nice One Cyril, Nice One Son, Nice One Cyril, Let's Have Another One. A certified No 1 hit.

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WORLD CUP 98

Confident Brazil are hungry to retain title

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

IN BRAZILIAN folklore, they tell a story about a man living in the jungle who has to kill to eat. The only animals in his part of the forest are lions, the fiercest of all possible preys. So each day, the man has to kill a lion to survive. Yesterday, as Brazil gathered themselves for the World Cup final against France, Zico, their assistant coach, drew on that story.

As Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, and the rest of his team spoke of their unshakeable confidence that they would win the "Penta", their fifth World Cup trophy, the match that will take place at St-Denis tomorrow has been distilled into a battle between the best attack in the world and the best defence.

If Brazil have dazzled intermittently with the skills of Ronaldo and Rivaldo and, just as significantly, the attacking prowess of their full backs, Cafu and Roberto Carlos, so the France defence, led imperiously by Marcel Desailly, has inspired with its fortitude and indomitability.

With Laurent Blanc alongside him and Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarazu, a sprightly Basque, protecting the flanks, they have dulled with ease what little attacking prowess they have encountered. Brazil will be, by far, their sternest test. For Zico, that back four, shorn though it may be of Blanc, stands for the lion that Brazil must slay if they are to feast on what has become their staple diet.

"The Brazilian attack against the French defence is like a war," Zico said. "But it is a war that will be won by the most efficient attack and that is Brazil's. Style does not matter if you win. We need to kill this lion. The bravest man is the one who has to kill the lion to get what he needs."

Such talk, of course, conjures thoughts of an epic final in front of 80,000 supporters in the gleaming new Stade de France. In many ways, it is a dream final, a match between hosts and holders that means this country has remained engrossed in the tournament until the conclusion rather than diverting its attention to other distractions like the Tour de France. The country's enchantment has heightened the drama of the build-up to the game.

The fact that Brazil are there adds a legitimacy to the event as well. Considered for so long the best team in the world, feted for the extravagance of their attacking riches, there would have been a crushing sense of anticlimax had the Dutch been rewarded for their irreverence and the brilliance of Edgar Davids with a semi-final victory over the holders in Marseilles on Tuesday.

Although the Dutch pushed them very close, Brazil are probably the best team in a tournament that has been unusually entertaining but has not been graced with one outstanding side. Terry Venables, the former England coach, shook his head when he considered what he had seen. "I've just had the feeling that there is no team that has everything," he said. "Brazil has a great attack, France has a fine defence but no one has had it all."

The reality now is that even if there are weaknesses in the Brazil defence and particularly in the central defensive partnership of Aldair and Junior Baiano, France do not possess the attacking firepower to exploit them. Stephane Guivarc'h, the striker favoured by Aimé Jacquet, has looked cumbersome while David Trezeguet and Thierry Henry have been inconsistent.

In France's semi-final victory over Croatia, their most talented player, Zinedine Zidane, looked oppressed by the responsibility he felt had been foisted on him to break the deadlock. He shot on sight but his efforts were either snatched or wildly awry. Both goals were scored by a full-back, Lilian Thuram. A French striker has not scored since Henry's neat finish in the 4-0 rout of Saudi Arabia five games ago.

Given that lack of potency, it will be down to Desailly and his new partner, Frank Leboeuf, to stem the tide and it is unlikely they will survive the whole game. Ronaldo may not be at his best but the threats come from all directions. It is not an option to stop Brazil scoring. The only way is to outscore them and France do not have that capability.

Even playing in front of their home crowd is unlikely to save the French. Zagallo, as voluble as ever, insisted on having the final word when that suggestion was put to him. "It won't have any influence," he said. "They might have 80,000 supporters in that stadium but remember this: in the head of each of the Brazilian players there will be 160 million supporters willing them on. We have won all our World Cups abroad."

If anyone is about to be thrown to the lions, it seems, it will be France, not Brazil.

TEAMS

BRAZIL (probable, 4-4-2): Taffarel (Atlético Mineiro) — Cafú (AS Roma), Junior Baiano (Flamengo), Aldair (AS Roma), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid) — César Sampaio (Ana Soto Kogyo), Dunga (Jubilo Iwata), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Leonardo (AC Milan) — Ronaldo (Internazionale), Denilson (São Paulo) or Bebeto (Botafogo)

FRANCE (probable, 1-3-4-2): F Barthez (AS Monaco) — F Leboeuf (Chelsea) — L Thuram (Parma), M Desailly (Chelsea), B Lizarazu (Bayern Munich) — T Henry (AS Monaco), Z Zidane (Juventus), D Deschamps (Juventus), E Petit (Arsenal) — Y Djorkaeff (Internazionale), S Guivarc'h (Newcastle United)

Ronaldo's final chance to conquer world

Oliver Holt believes the Brazil striker has disappointed but can still live up to his billing as a football phenomenon



LIONEL CRONNEAU

Ronaldo may not dominate games but he has an amazing goalscoring record, especially in leading finals

The hunt for greatness has become a footballing obsession. The game needs gods now more than it ever did. It needs them to legitimise the galloping commercialism that has taken hold of football in the past decade and is ever tightening its grip, to show that the sport is worthy of the vast amounts of money invested in it. The sublimity of their skills makes all the worshipping worthwhile.

More specifically, football needs one great god, one ruling deity, to give a sense of hierarchy to the Mount Olympus it has created. When the World Cup finals lumber along, the need grows keener. Football thirsts for the one it has annointed to take the competition by storm, to dazzle the watching billions. This summer, in France, it has turned to Ronaldo.

It has been building him up for two years, herding him towards this tournament, watching in glee as the spectacular highlights of his goalscoring deeds beam out. He has not been allowed to arrive gradually. His talent has been trumpeted before it has fully matured, exaggerated and lauded before it has been tested.

The danger is that when the test comes, the reality does not match up to the dream. For some of those who have not seen Ronaldo play 90 minutes before, this World Cup has been like the moment in *The Man Who Would Be King*, when the bride bites Sean Connery's character and draws blood. Suddenly, his subjects realise that they have been cheated.

Ronaldo does not deserve opprobrium for the way he has played in the six games that have taken Brazil to the World Cup final. Far from it. He has created goals and scored four himself, even though he is not fully fit. But he has not bestrode the tournament as fans were led to believe he would. He is not another Maradona, a man who can control matches to the point of utter domination.

What he does do, with almost freakish regularity, is score. I saw him play several times before these finals, both for Barcelona and Internazionale, and only once, during a Uefa Cup game against Spartak Moscow — when he went through his full range of tricks, and his explosions of pace with control inspired awe — did he look like the best player in the world.

For Barcelona, against Real Madrid, he looked particularly ordinary. He even managed to hit a tame penalty straight at the Real goalkeeper. Somehow, the ball squirmed out of the goalkeeper's grasp and fell to Figo, who squared it to Ronaldo. He scored, Barcelona won 1-0 and he was the hero again.

He did it again in the World Cup semi-final against Holland in Marseilles last Tuesday. After the game, Pelé tried to insist that Ronaldo was the man of the match, but that was sadly inaccurate. In the first half, he hardly had a kick, he looked miserable and out-of-sorts. Then, within a few seconds of the start of the second half, he ran on to a ball from Rivaldo and scored with a calm, clinical finish.

That is the essence of Ronaldo. He represents a sort of footballing minimalism, the sport pared down to its barest essential. Even if he plays like a sloth for much of a match, barely able to rouse himself, he still scores almost every time. And scoring, more than a well-timed tackle, more than the most beautiful pass, is what drives the market. He has 30 goals in 41 appearances for Brazil. He is, indeed, the Phenomenon, his nickname in Italy.

Like many modern footballers, he lives in a cocoon that protects him from his celebrity. Since he left Brazil when he was 17, having scored 49 goals in his first 50 games for Cruzeiro, he has been robbed of his youth. He listens to music, surfs the Internet for hours and hangs out with his girlfriend. Last year, an interviewer asked him a question about Sir Bobby Charlton. Ronaldo had never heard of him.

He is an individual player first and a team player second, even though he may insist otherwise. He created two goals for Rivaldo in the quarter-final against Denmark but, usually, he puts his head down and goes for goal. "Ronaldo is like a steamroller with a computer-generated Ferrari engine programmed to score," Jorge Valdano, the former Argentina striker, has said. "I think he must be a Martian."

Ronaldo's public utterances are rarely worthy of note, save when he rails against the injustices visited upon Inter, but still a mythology has developed around him, spawned, ironically enough, by a host of Internet sites devoted to him, that say he emerged from the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro, from a house with no doors or windows. It is more romantic than the truth, which was a less crushing kind of poverty.

"Money does not make you happy," Ronaldo said. "I was poor and happy. I became a professional and famous because of two things: love and hunger, not because of money. When I was a child, I was poor and hungry but I liked what I did. Today, I'm not hungry but I'm lucky — I continue to love what I do.

"I know who I am and where I have come from and I am not going to change. I really missed my childhood. One minute I was playing for Sao Cristovao in the Brazilian second division, watching the stars on the television, and the next minute I was one of the stars. I had had to grow up very quickly. It was not long ago that I was a child, but I have had to live away from my family since I was 15. Don't forget, I went to Holland when I was 17."

Now, of course, we can know everything there is to know about this man, who is still only 21. That his childhood attempts to get a trial with Flamengo were doomed because he could not afford the bus fare; that he has a dog called Pichichi, the name of the trophy given each year to the top scorer in Spain's Primera Liga; that he lives in a Milan flat with his girlfriend, Susana Werner; that he cost Inter £19.8 million when he joined them at the beginning of last season from Barcelona; that Zico is his hero.

> 'He has not bestrode the tournament as fans were told he would'

His wages have leapt from £300 a month when he was with Cruzeiro, to £1 million a season when he was at PSV Eindhoven, to the £3.5 million he earns with Inter. He gathers an extra £1 million a year from Nike, another £700,000 from Brahma, the Brazilian brewers. If he wins the Golden Boot by scoring twice in the final, his sponsors will pay him another million, too.

"Scoring goals is everything to me," Ronaldo said. "It is my passion and my life. Nothing gives me greater pleasure. My football is about imagination and intuition, about those moments that have people on their feet applauding. On the pitch, I am bold. Everything I do on the pitch, I do with the same aim, scoring the next goal."

Only a fool would bet against him achieving that aim again tomorrow night. In every leading final that he has played in, he has scored. He may not play well. He may not be the god you thought he was, but if the ball hits the back of the France net in the Stade de France, the odds are that it will have left his boot a split second before.

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Fifa finds unique solution to numbers game puzzle

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THEY sat in a darkened room, eye shades on and copious amounts of coffee at hand, the members of the technical committee of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, deliberated long and hard over their selection for the MasterCard All-Star World Cup Team. It was hard going, sifting through the multitude of impressive candidates, until they hit on a brainwave ... there would be 16 players.

Yes, the MasterCard All-Star World Cup Team has five more players than a regulation football side. Step forward the technical committee, including Andy Roxburgh, the former Scotland manager, and Josef Venglos, the former Aston Villa manager, and take a bow. What a brilliant piece of ingenuity: a perplexing problem remarkably resolved.

Apart from its struggle with one of the more basic rules of the game — teams should be 11-a-side — the great and good of the committee settled on a line-up that few could argue with. Most of the usual suspects were selected, with Dunga, Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos representing Brazil, the world champions, and Fabien Barthez, Marcel Desailly, Lilian Thuram and Zinedine Zidane picked from France, the host nation.

Up front, Brian Laudrup, of Denmark, partners Ronaldo and Davor Suker, of Croatia, and there is also a place for Dennis Bergkamp, of Holland, despite his illegal antics in the victory against Yugoslavia. Had he not been chosen, he presumably would have stamped his feet and sulked.

Paraguay, not one of the most imaginatives sides in the World Cup, have still managed to gain two slots in the team — José Luis Chilavert, the crop-haired goalkeeper who would scare a bull, and Carlos Gamarra, the defender. It says much for Paraguayan obduracy rather than any rise up the world rankings.

There is no place for Michael Owen, 18, on whom England's hopes briefly flickered. At least he is named as a reserve, of which there are six, completing a squad of 22. Gerard Houllier, the former France coach and another member of the technical committee, said: "He is one of the younger players we feel will make a real impact on the next World Cup."

Paul Ince, Owen's England team-mate, made the shortlist but was ignored in the final analysis. Perhaps he will have a chance when Fifa announces its expanded 20-strong All-Star team at the end of the 2002 World Cup finals.



Owen: reserve

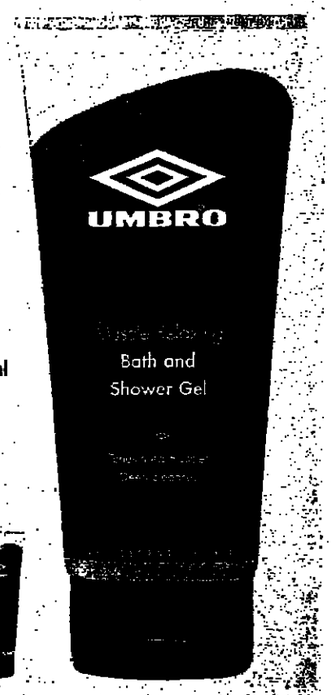
ALL-STAR WORLD CUP TEAM: Goalkeepers: F Barthez (France), J-L Chilavert (Paraguay). Defenders: M Desailly (France), F de Boer (Holland), C Gamarra (Paraguay), Roberto Carlos (Brazil), L Thuram (France). Midfield players: E Davids (Holland), Dunga (Brazil), M Laudrup (Denmark), Rivaldo (Brazil), Z Zidane (France). Strikers: D Bergkamp (Holland), B Laudrup (Denmark), Ronaldo (Brazil), D Suker (Croatia). Reserves: E van der Sar (Holland), J J Okocha (Nigeria), J Veron (Argentina), M Owen (England), T Henry (France), C Vieri (Italy)

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WORLD CUP 98

French toast 'the people's team'

FROM ROB HUGHES
IN PARIS



A nation is praying that Desailly, strong, calm and athletic, can cope with the threat of the world's best attacker and lead it to the World Cup pinnacle

WHEN the triumphalist sound of the *Marseillaise* rings out over the Stade de France tomorrow and when television cameras scan the faces of the France team for the benefit of 1.7 billion viewers around the globe, I shall fix my gaze on Marcel Desailly. I shall look at his eyes, at the set of his jaw, at his impressive physique, because if any player in this tournament can stop Ronaldo, it could be him.

This naturalised Frenchman embodies the talents that have already taken France further in the World Cup than at any time in its history. His calmness, his alertness, his redoubtable none-shall-pass example, emboldens others in the team. Indeed, before the last training session, Didier Deschamps, the captain and most capped Frenchman of all time, answered the inevitable question as succinctly as it could be stated: "Who will stop Ronaldo?" "Marcel Desailly." Smile, end of conversation.

As a committed Brazil enthusiast throughout my adult life, a commitment to joy and to quality, I neither fear nor expect France to shut out Brazil for 90 minutes. But I share the French feeling that Desailly is the key man and that he, with help, might push Ronaldo to the very best of his phenomenal strength, pace and instinctive striking. The young Brazilian is two goals away from concluding this tournament as top scorer, and if he wants it badly enough, France are in big trouble.

They are, in any event, under intense pressure. "France," General de Gaulle wrote after the Second World War, "is created either for complete success, or exemplary misfortunes. France cannot be France without grandeur." Aimé Jacquet, the modern France coach, has begged to differ. He eschewed the chances to give France grandeur. He left out Eric Cantona, he turned away David Ginola and he ignored the startling pace and precocity of Nicolas Anelka.

Jacquet is a cautious man, a defensive man, a coach of the 1990s. In reaching the final his own way, he is on the brink of replacing the 1984 European championship side, whose photograph hangs at the entrance to the auditorium of the national training base, with his own team. Not blessed with the flair of a midfield comprising Platini, Giresse and Tigana, the new team has the sweat and reliability of Deschamps, the stressed brilliance of Zidane and a defence moulded on Lilian Thuram, born in Guadeloupe, and Desailly, born in Ghana.

"I salute the unity of a team representative of French diversity," Lionel Jospin, the socialist Prime Minister, said last week. "When I see blacks and *beurs* [sons of North african immigrants] with the French flag, singing the *Marseillaise*, I find that these are timely images." What is timely? Brazil, heading for its fifth world crown, had set the example of colour blindness in its soccer teams half a century ago. With its flair, its polyglot mix, it showed the world that this game knows no barrier of race or creed or religion.

How fitting it will be if, this weekend, France can really convince us that it has discovered true love of the sport, true acceptance that a team and its parts belong to all the people.

Eighteen million people here watched France beat Croatia on television on Wednesday. The fascination may be nationalistic, but this is a game that claims people whoever they are, wherever they are. In 1998 we have not had a free-flowing tournament, we have been exasperated by professionals cheating on professionals — by Ronaldo, no less, falling ludicrously when, with his muscle and might, he would be best advised to stay on his feet and show his majesty.

There is one day left for him really to engage a defender in fair competition, to set the example his US $10 million a year earnings entitles us to demand of him. Desailly is not, from what we have seen, a remotely violent opponent. He subdues forwards through anticipation, through forceful but seldom illegal tackles, through speed and appreciation of movement. Tomorrow, he will need friends. Laurent Blanc, who would have been his aide, said: "From my time with Ronaldo at Barcelona, he's so fast that when he's going for goal it's a foul or a goal. His acceleration with the ball is unique, but I would have found it fascinating against him."

Because one man's misfortune is another's opportunity, Frank Leboeuf now starts his partnership with Desailly one match earlier than when they come together in Chelsea blue next month. The plot to make France's goal area no entry to Ronaldo might also curb the adventure of Thuram because the gifts that Leboeuf possess do not include the one-to-one speed to cope with the world's fastest footballer.

The best defender, Desailly, against the best attacker, Ronaldo, is only the start of it. Ronaldo has proved that he can play creator to Bebeto's poaching, can put Rivaldo in for a goal, can artfully gain free kicks which, sooner or later, Roberto Carlos will capitalise upon. Repel all of that and a certain substitute, Denilson, will come forward to dance a different tune.

Maybe Jacquet is a cavalier masquerading as a cautious man, and maybe he is thinking that France's proudest moment must not be the *Marseillaise* playing before all the world. Maybe, like de Gaulle, he will send out *Les Bleus* with grandeur. And Desailly will score!

'How fitting it will be if France can convince us that it has discovered that a team and its parts belong to all the people'

Desailly opens the case for stoutest defence

Kevin McCarra on a France rearguard in formidable shape for their ultimate test

Marcel Desailly, the France defender, will have to deal with Ronaldo in the World Cup final tomorrow, but this is scarcely the first occasion on which the Brazil forward has intruded upon his life. As if encountering him whenever his club, AC Milan, played Internazionale were not enough, Desailly finds reminders within the privacy of his family.

His four-year-old son Virgil, much affected by the enthusiasms of other children, shaved his head so that he might resemble Ronaldo. His father has striven to explain that he, too, is in Ronaldo's line of work, although employed in a slightly different capacity. The final may reveal that the two players share a similar status, even if Virgil is not yet ready to appreciate the fact.

The proficiency of Desailly and the rest of the France defence has been as great a factor in this tournament as the elaborate efforts of any forward. The host nation has conceded just two goals in six matches at the World Cup and one of those came from a Denmark penalty.

The grip exerted on the opposition's attack has often been France's means of clinging to their dreams. In the second round, Paraguay were denied any opportunities until Laurent Blanc, with the end of extra-time approaching, scored the only goal of the afternoon. Against Italy, in the quarter-final, Desailly and the others kept a clean sheet, leaving victory to be attained in a penalty shoot-out.

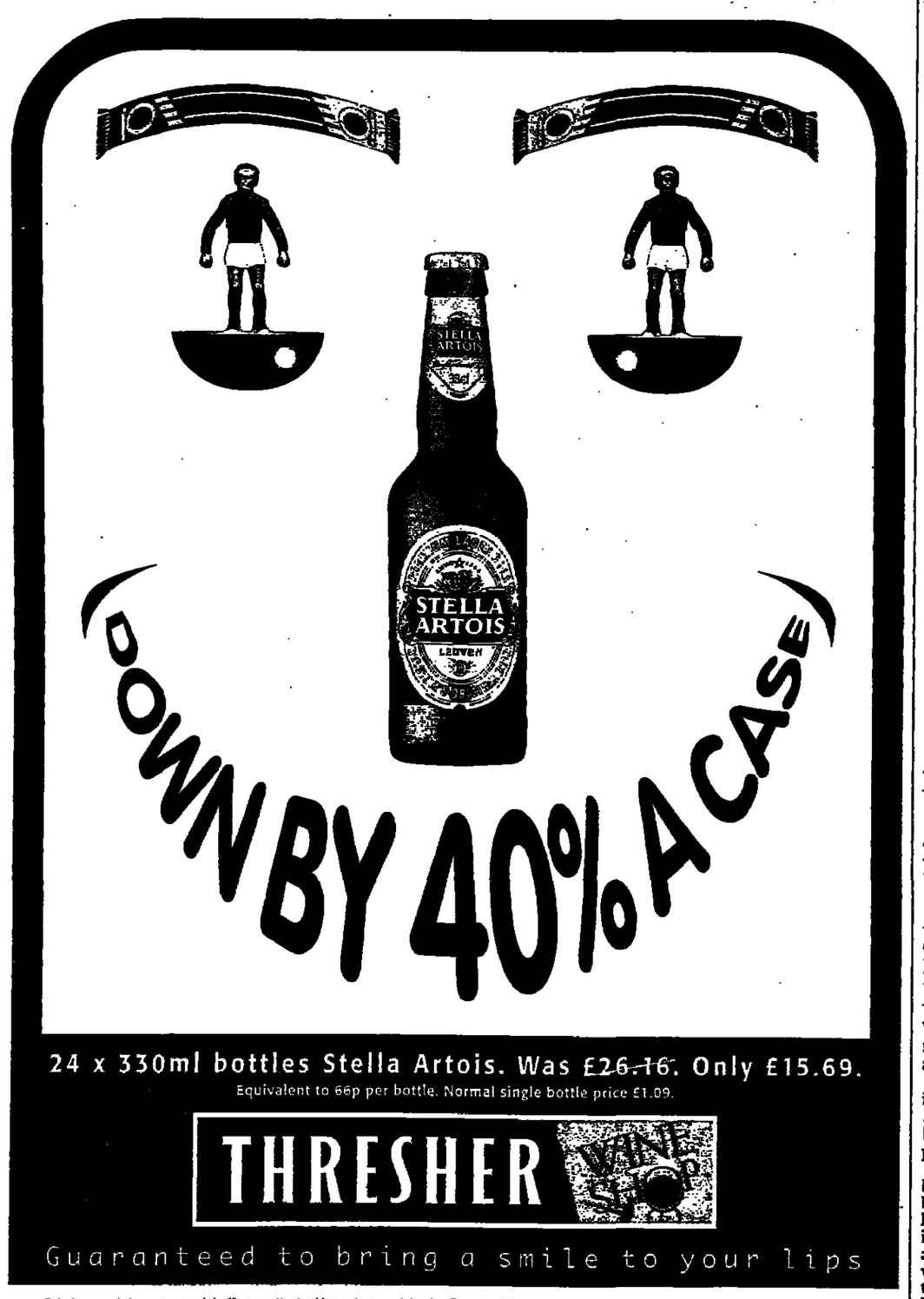
When Blanc was sent off in the semi-final, France stood firm and protected the 2-1 lead over Croatia. The esteem in which the defence is held is epitomised by the fact that Blanc follows the captain, Didier Deschamps, in delivering a small team-talk before each game. Tomorrow, he will have to conclude his speech with words of farewell because suspension will prevent him from joining the rest of the players on the field. Frank Leboeuf is an experienced replacement, but France will miss the unruffled control that Blanc exerts. In consequence, they must lean on Desailly more than ever.

Desailly is a native of Ghana and is still caught up in the life of a country he left as a child. His imminent move to Chelsea lies in his desire to learn English, the official tongue in Ghana, so that he can be an influence for good there.

Identity has many layers, however, and, at 18, Desailly chose his nationality without hesitation. "I love France," he still declares. His great friend and confidant is Deschamps, figurehead of the team. It is one of Desailly's regrets that, after each victory at this World Cup, he is not free to join the crowds in the Champs-Elysées, to climb onto the roof of a car and wave a flag.

Lilian Thuram, the athletic right back who scored both goals in the semi-final victory over Croatia, was born in Guadeloupe and is another man whose distinctive background has contributed to a strength of mind. There can be few other participants in this World Cup who publicly deplore the immense spending on the Stade de France and admit that they would have been content to see the tournament cancelled if the investment could have been distributed to people in need.

With Thuram, Desailly, Fabien Barthez, a goalkeeper who became first choice only after Bernard Lama failed a dope test, and Bixente Lizarazu, a left back who has overcome a year of injury and the loss of his place at Bayern Munich, France have constructed a defence that is as intriguing as it is formidable.



Thrills of a lifetime squeezed into one unforgettable month

Montmartre, Paris



The World Cup has been carrying on in Paris from the start, of course. But for me, the return to the monochrome capital means it's nearly over, which is frankly weird. After all, five years (or was it ten?) is a very long time. No way can I pretend it seems like yesterday that Brazil lined up with Scotland at St-Denis on June 10. Not when I fully expect on my return to England to find a new government in office and my cats in Bath chairs with ear trumpets. How was the millennium, by the way? Did the dome work out? God, I was sorry to miss it all.

A World Cup, you see, becomes a whole lifetime, entire in itself. Like Solomon Grundy born on Monday, I feel I first drew breath and saw the world — albeit out of focus and upside down — on June 10. My childhood and confused adolescence were the 16 hectic days of the first round, when I recklessly experimented with such heady mixtures as the United States and Iran, Italy and Cameroon, Jamaica and Croatia; then, just as I risked burn-out, England were beaten by Argentina, thus precipitating a full-blown mid-life crisis. "Why? How?" I railed. "What's the point? Life's a bitch and then you die!" And so on.

But things accelerated bewilderingly after that, as they do in life. Downhill all the way, and without brakes, I hastily matured into World Cup adulthood for the quarter-finals, sat back with pipe and slippers for the semis, and now, with just the final weekend in prospect, am old and tired but very happy as I freewheel directly towards the big brick wall that is the finale tomorrow. After that, if the rest is silence, that's fine. I've had a good innings. Just the echo of the motto of France 98 will hang in the air as the flags are lowered: "*C'est beau un monde qui joue*".

What a phenomenal event it has been. Experience of minor English literary festivals prepared me for it quite inadequately. Shirts and flags and banners; skies and pitches, and hundreds of thousands of fans. The world comes to France to play superlative football, and the world's supporters come to watch and have a great time — it's a brilliant arrangement.

France runs buses and provides nice food, and in return, Brazilians on the Marseilles Metro warily finger the bunches of carrots worn hooked over the ears of very strange Dutch people. "Ooh la la la, let's go dancing" is the refrain of the song they play at every stadium after every match. And it sounds such an appropriate idea. My personal memories will include David Pleat, who saw my description of him as "crinkly" and has since introduced himself to me (and others) as "Mister Crinkle".

I will remember, too, my first sight of the precipitous inside of the Vélodrome, when I missed my footing on the top step and plunged headfirst, arresting my fall by clutching a desk-lamp which I wrenched free from its moorings, to the open-mouthed alarm of the chap from *The Guardian*.

I met some nice English fans in a leafy square in Lyons, whose youthful enthusiasm temporarily shamed me out of my chronic self-pity. And once, in a zoo-like area of the Press Centre called the Mixed Zone, I saw Ronaldo plain, the way someone or other once saw Shelley.

It's been intensely real, incredibly long, and the most important thing going on in the world, bar nothing. Yet by the time I've pinned my tickets on the wall, I know how it will be. It will be weird. "Has it finished? That was quick," the neighbours will say. "Did someone win?"

Meanwhile, the millennium will have moved just a month nearer, Tony Blair will be still at No 10, and the cats will not have aged or changed the slightest bit. They'll just give me that look of. "All right, where were *you* last night?" to which I can never find the right thing to say.

LYNNE TRUSS



An eternity has passed since the Scots did their fling in Paris

WILLIAM HILL has taken a "world record bet" on the final between Brazil and France tomorrow. A client has staked £240,000 at even money on Brazil to win in 90 minutes' play. The same man won £160,000 when his bet of £200,000 on England to beat Colombia, at 5-4 on, proved successful.

☐ "The final is set to become the biggest betting match of the World Cup," Graham Sharpe, a Hills spokesman, said. "It is one of the most one-sided, too. We have already taken over £500,000 on Brazil but very little on France." Bookmakers expect the World Cup finals to become the first betting event to produce an industry turnover in excess of £100 million.

Bookmakers find only one team in it

☐ Soap fans can still get their fix on BBC1 tomorrow with a nine-minute special edition of *EastEnders* squeezed into the channel's World Cup coverage. Apparently, the characters of Pat, Roy, Barry, Huw, Lennie and Robbie are to be found sampling the atmosphere in Paris. Do they get to the final . . ? You'll have to wait to find out.

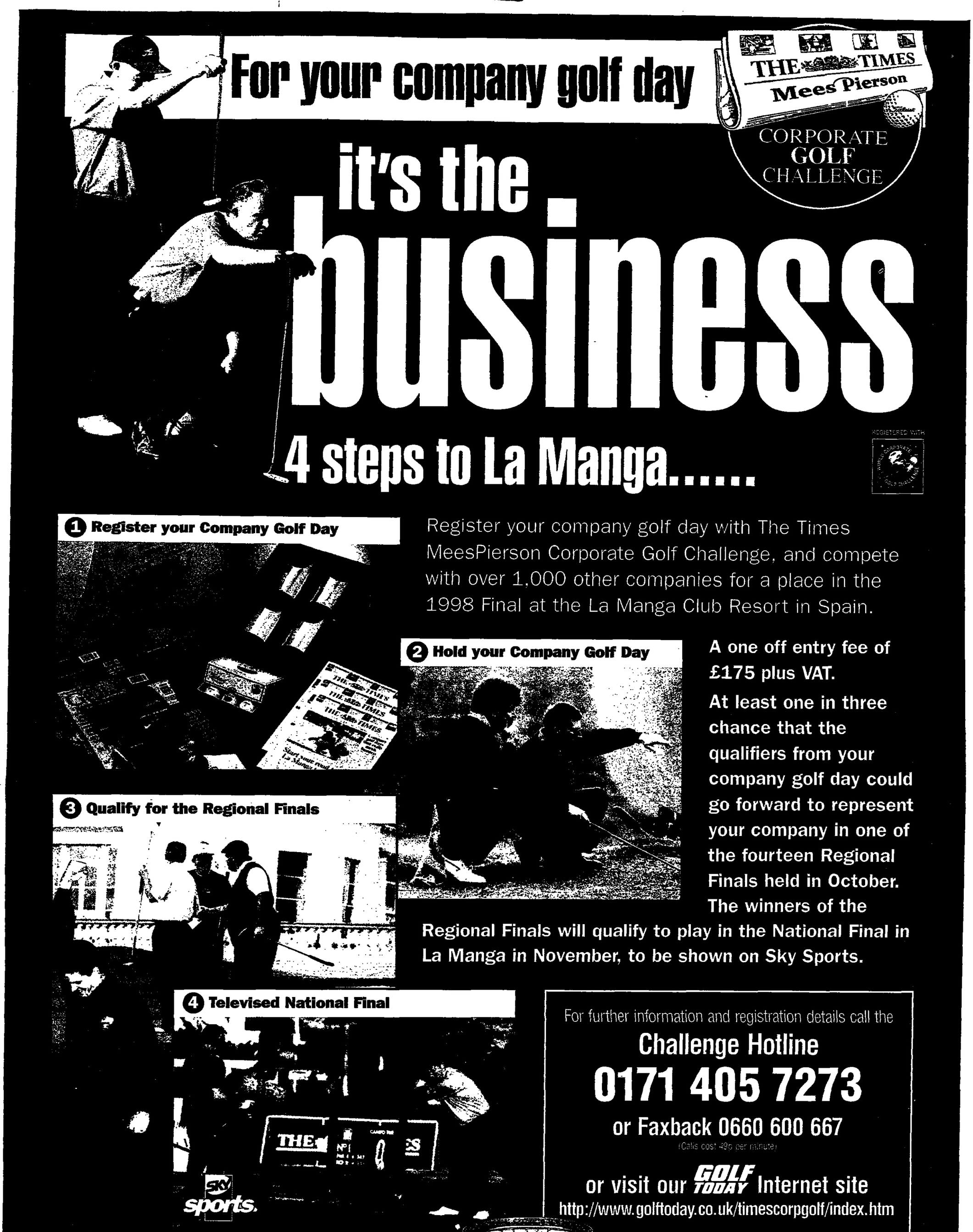
☐ ITV has entitled its day's coverage "The Glorious Twelfth", which incorporates several cars chugging around a Northamptonshire village — something called the British Grand Prix, from Silverstone — and then some footie from St-Denis. More than 11 hours have been dedicated to the events, with soap fans catered for in a Coronation Street World Cup Special.

Sporting Index, the spread betting firm, will lay odds on two flies climbing a wall. Tomorrow, when Brian Moore retires from television commentating, it goes 9-11 mentions of the name "Brian" by his co-commentator during the final.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل





Top men (from left): Davids, Holland's "Pitbull"; Chilavert, the extrovert Paraguay goalkeeper; Ronaldo, sheer class

Gamarra complements bark of his goalkeeper

Times writers name the players who have impressed them most over the past month and construct 1998 dream teams

ROB HUGHES

THE ultimate fantasy team is chosen from a World Cup of 32 nations, at which Paraguay emerged as one of the most stifling and effective defences. I amaze myself by choosing no Italian, no Englishman (though how I wish Michael Owen had had more than one full, pulsating game to impress his teenage zest on the tournament), no Spaniard and no geriatric German. Moreover, there is no place for Jaap Stam, who has cost more than £10 million of the Manchester United fortune, and none for any player from Asia or Africa.

In goal, largely because it is dangerous to meet him after omitting him, would be José Luis Chilavert. Histrionics he may perform, but in a tournament in which few goalkeepers excelled, this commando-like last defender scarcely made a mistake and certainly impressed on his team a style and a purpose.

Lilian Thuram, the right back, selected himself for athleticism, power and adventure even before he scored twice for France in their semi-final. His countryman, Marcel Desailly, has been, simply, the outstanding defender, arguably the most consistent and dominant player in the whole event. Carlos Gamarra earns a vote simply because he withstood the barking voice of Chilavert at his back and let no forward past. And Roberto Carlos? Below his best, as yet no scintillating goal, but nevertheless the outstanding, galvanic, left-sided force in football.

In midfield, Edgar Davids, Holland's "Pitbull", surprised even his own team-mates, first at being selected, then with his tenacity and self-control: a marvellous hard core for any team. To take care of him in those volatile moments, I choose Didier Deschamps, the "water-carrier" as he was disparaged by Eric Cantona. Perhaps an unexpected choice, but one whose responsibility and industry keeps the machine ticking.

To the left, Rivaldo steals the place, not merely for his goals but for that wondrous pass from the halfway line that put Ronaldo through for Brazil's semi-final goal against Holland. Rivaldo gets the nod ahead of Emmanuel Petit, who drives the France midfield as well as he does that of Arsenal, and ahead of Davor Suker, whose left foot is almost without parallel.

Behind the front duo, Michael Laudrup, squeezing the last essence of his marvellous creativity, shades my choice ahead of Ariel Ortega, whose feet were dancing but whose head-butt betrayed him.

The forwards? Not such riches as we expected. But Marcelo Salas, the Chilean who worked in splendid tandem with Ivan Zamorano, scored goals on the ground and in the air that would be jewels in any crown. Then there is Ronaldo. He keeps saying he is not quite fit, that he is weary and not quite on his game. Yet that acceleration, that power, that composure when he shakes free to score is the most thrilling sight in a game played by tens of millions.

TEAM: J-L Chilavert (Paraguay) — L Thuram (France), C Gamarra (Paraguay), M Desailly (France), Roberto Carlos (Brazil) — D Deschamps (France), E Davids (Holland), Rivaldo (Brazil) — M Laudrup (Denmark) — M Salas (Chile), Ronaldo (Brazil)



Sheer talent of Chilavert too good to ignore

KEVIN McCARRA

SOME complain of falling standards, but it is democracy, rather than deterioration, that has changed the World Cup. There is no single, great team, but marvellous players have been spread throughout many nations. Those who are dismayed by boastfulness will have been sorry to find that José Luis Chilavert's talent is as big as his mouth.

No one was able to disprove his claim to be the best goalkeeper in the world. Paraguay had to defeat Nigeria to reach the second round, but before they did so, and with the score at 1-1, Chilavert made three scintillating saves. He also came close to scoring with a free kick against Bulgaria. Who could resist picking such a man?

It would be as simple to select *en masse* a France defence that has generally appeared invincible. Two of its members are majestic as well. Lilian Thuram, a centre half playing at right back, has performed with verve, power and stamina. In the middle of the back four, Marcel Desailly has been authoritative when breaking up attacks and precise in his use of the possession that he wins.

Tony Adams was as imposing and resilient. When Argentina failed to score against an England team reduced to ten men, it often felt as if the Arsenal player's sheer force of character was repelling them. The left back place goes to Robert Jarni. His pertinence has been a welcome contrast to the much-touted Roberto Carlos, of Brazil.

This defence needs little protection, but Dunga has impressed in the anchor role in midfield with Brazil. Leadership, too, would be supplied by a man known to give famous team-mates an uncouth rollicking. The rest of the midfield would be made up of Juan Sebastian Veron, of Argentina, a young player whose talent is maturing rapidly. Edgar Davids, Holland's fountain of energy, possesses the technique to marry effort and effectiveness.

Brian Laudrup is at his best when floating in and around the forward line. The Dane, 29, in his last appearance at the World Cup, took chances as well as purveying them. He might enjoy directing a few passes into the path of Ronaldo.

Aching and weary from a surfeit of football in the past two years, he is still the finest player at the World Cup. He has scored four goals at the tournament, provided three for team-mates and made opponents quake whenever, with that inexplicable acceleration, he shifts from standstill to sprint.

For the sake of variety, he would be partnered by Christian Vieri. The Italy forward is also swift and dependable in his finishing, but, unlike Ronaldo, he can head the ball.

TEAM: J-L Chilavert (Paraguay) — L Thuram (France), M Desailly (France), A Adams (England), R Jarni (Croatia) — J Veron (Argentina), Dunga (Brazil), E Davids (Holland) — B Laudrup (Denmark) — Ronaldo (Brazil), C Vieri (Italy).



Thuram: powerful



Adams: resilient

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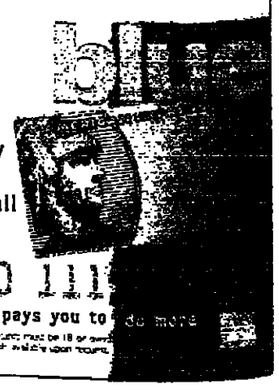
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Barthez is the best man to save the day

BRIAN GLANVILLE

IN GOAL, Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, seems to me to have the strongest claim, though Claudio Taffarel, of Brazil, has at long last won true acceptance. Barthez has surpassed himself in this competition, not only making excellent saves on the line but coming out strongly and securely for the high crosses. Right at the end of the semi-final against Croatia, he tipped that difficult deflected shot over the bar.

The right back must plainly be his team-mate, Lilian Thuram, used in the French system virtually as a winger: and what a winger! How many wingers could have scored those two spectacular goals?

It helps to choose a three-man defence, because I cannot for the life of me think of a worthy left back or wing back.

France should supply yet another defender in Marcel Desailly, who has looked a superbly dominant, commanding figure in the position he does not actually prefer.

Frank De Boer, of Holland, not only for his defending but for his extraordinary long passing, would be my other centre back.

Another Dutchman, Edgar "Pitbull" Davids, walks, pony-tailed, into the midfield. Whatever possessed his coach, Guus Hiddink, to leave him out of the opening game against Belgium? An echo, perhaps, of their dispute during Euro 96, when a recalcitrant Davids was sent packing.

Brian Laudrup, of Denmark, has decided to abandon international football at the same time as his big brother, Michael. His performances were fluent, intelligent and penetrative.

Dunga, Brazil's 34-year-old captain — and did he not show it when he passionately rebuked poor Bebeto? — is, as his coach, Zagallo, said, Brazil's one true leader. He shields his defence and makes shrewd use of the ball.

Beside him in midfield, Rivaldo, with his cultivated left foot, his eye for the killer pass, his finishing ability, is the inside forward that Brazil did not have in 1994.

On the right-hand side I would have Ariel Ortega, even if the elusive little Argentinian did disgrace himself in the final game against Holland.

Up front there would be Michael Owen, so shamefully ignored at first by Glenn Hoddle. The marvellous prodigy of English football is the pick of his generation. By his side would be that greater prodigy, the incomparable Ronaldo, who has finally flourished, even without Romario beside him.

TEAM (3-5-2): F Barthez (France) — L Thuram (France), M Desailly (France), F de Boer (Holland) — A Ortega (Argentina), E Davids (Holland), B Laudrup (Denmark), Dunga (Brazil), Rivaldo (Brazil) — M Owen (England), Ronaldo (Brazil).

Forward pairing full of problems

MATT DICKINSON

IS GOALKEEPING a dying art? It may seem a trifle overstated, but there has been little evidence at France 98 to suggest that the custodians' union is in safe hands.

Even Peter Schmeichel seemed ponderous against Brazil and there were few other convincing claims to the title of best goalkeeper in the world despite all the opportunities for individual glory provided by penalty shoot-outs. Zubizarreta, of Spain, and Köpke, of Germany, two grand old men between the posts, slunk away with their reputations as full of holes as the nets they were protecting.

Which leaves José Luis Chilavert, of Paraguay, to take the goalkeeping vote, partly for an excellent display against France but mostly for his wonderful 35-yard free kick against Bulgaria. One of the tournament's unforgettable characters.

Who will expect to penetrate a defence of Laurent Blanc, Marcel Desailly and Sol Campbell? The fearsome tackles of the latter two are enough to put off any striker and, on the off-chance that they should be beaten, there is Blanc behind them.

Lilian Thuram has been moved forward to right wing back and just slips in ahead of Cafú, the indefatigable Brazilian. The Frenchman might not be as regular a goalscorer as his brace against Croatia in the semi-final might suggest, but he is a powerful runner as well as a dependable stopper.

Juan Veron, the loose-limbed Argentina midfield player, and Edgar Davids, the Dutch master who was truly exceptional in the semi-final against Brazil, pick themselves. Both have the range to drop deep or surge forward, athletes at their prime. Likewise Roberto Carlos. His distribution has occasionally been poor but, having once seen him dictate an entire game for Internazionale from left back, I am confident he is saving his best for the final.

The choice of Michael Owen and Ronaldo up front wins no marks for originality, but that is the point. Everyone knows their strengths but still seems baffled about what to do about them. Owen deserves selection for *that* goal alone. As for those who believe Ronaldo has failed to live up to expectations, one run during extra time of the semi-final was as ferocious in its power and pace as football can have been seen. There is a suspicion that the Brazilian is carrying a far from negligible injury. Even this team's defence would struggle if he was properly fit.

TEAM (3-4-1-2): J-L Chilavert (Paraguay) — M Desailly (France), L Blanc (France), S Campbell (England) — L Thuram (France), J Veron (Argentina), E Davids (Holland), B Laudrup (Denmark), Dunga (Brazil), Rivaldo (Brazil) — H Nakata (Japan) — M Owen (England), Ronaldo (Brazil).



Campbell: tough tackler



Roberto Carlos: athletic

Iran's finest makes case

LYNNE TRUSS

IMAGINATIVE passes and heroic runs mark out most of my chosen players, which is why I decided to put Mehdi Mahdavikia in my midfield. His heroic run to score Iran's second goal against the United States in Lyons had fearless determination and terrific, uncatchable speed.

I thought that if I put him in an aggressive, expanded midfield with Zidane, Davids, Dunga and Beckham, there would be no worry about what anyone else was doing, because these guys could do the lot. Zidane could out-think the opposition, Davids could run them over and leave them for dead, Beckham could knock the ball sweetly over their heads and into the goal, and Dunga could simply inspire. And every so often, the unknown quantity, Mahdavikia, could break free and streak towards goal like a rocket, leaving the forwards to wonder why they bothered to get up that morning.

To be honest, I have become frustrated with strikers in this tournament. They are so inconsistent, it drives you mad. And since midfielders have scored many of the best goals, I wonder why forwards are still reckoned to earn their crust. Where was Bergkamp in the semi-final against Brazil? What has happened to Thierry Henry, of AS Monaco and France, scourge of English club hopes in Europe for the past two seasons?

The trouble with forwards is, when they're not hovering about, saying "Over here!" and "On me 'ead!" and "Didn't you see me waving?", they're being knocked over for the hell of it. Why provide such easy targets? It's like having a team of centurion tanks led by butterflies. Having said all that, however, I'll have Michael Owen as my sole striker because he's so good at bouncing back from all the shin-chopping and concussing, and so on; and because (unlike Shearer, who's grown sulky) he's quite obviously ravenous for goals.



Choosing the goalkeeper was difficult. I couldn't have José-Luis Chilavert, of Paraguay, obviously, because this team isn't big enough for the two of us. I couldn't have Seaman unless he promised to buy nicer shorts. So I've gone for Barthez, because a) he hasn't let in many goals, b) he dresses in sober black, and c) because I believe him capable of great happiness. I can also (forgive a woman's folly) imagine him reading books. As for defence, I'll have Roberto Carlos, Adams, Frank de Boer and Luis Enrique, a regular army of adhesive talent and unbeatable resolve.

Adams was superb in England's campaign — his game against Argentina was utterly focused (Campbell a workhorse alongside). Meanwhile, Luis Enrique — well, what a reason for watching Spanish football on the telly. In Spain's ultimately pointless victory over Bulgaria in the first round of the tournament, he was outstanding going forward. But I needed a right back, so there he is.

Looking at this lot, I think I've got mainly players who don't criss-cross the field much, which is why Beckham — in the middle of it all — means a lot to me, as a floating linchpin. The boy is still brilliant as far as I'm concerned. The goal that he scored from a free kick against Colombia is still among the sweetest of the whole World Cup.

TEAM (4-5-1): F Barthez (France) — Roberto Carlos (Brazil), A Adams (England), F de Boer (Holland), Luis Enrique (Spain) — Z Zidane (France), Dunga (Brazil), D Beckham (England), E Davids (Holland), M Mahdavikia (Iran) — M Owen (England).



Beckham gave one writer the sweetest of memories



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THE WORLD CUP TODAY

BRAZIL v FRANCE

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

France may have home advantage, but Brazil must surely start favourites to win their fifth World Cup. The fact that this France team have reached the final at all says much about a largely disappointing tournament. Without Laurent Blanc at the heart of their defence, they may find it very difficult to curb the menace of Ronaldo.

While Marcel Desailly is the bulwark of the France defence, there will be a difficult opponent for Ronaldo. But Blanc, with his elegance and power, has been the inspiration. Frank Leboeuf is hardly in the same class as a *libero*.

If France have the skilful and inventive Zinedine Zidane, Brazil have, in Rivaldo, the creative midfield player that they so badly lacked, even though they won in 1994.

Lilian Thuram, scorer of those two spectacular goals against Croatia, could get change out of Roberto Carlos down the flank: but equally he will have to contain the forays of the Brazilian. Stéphane Guivarc'h, en route to Newcastle, expects to lead the France attack, again lamenting how difficult it is to be the lone striker — Djorkaeff being just behind him — and to have so few crosses to exploit.

But if Blanc was unlucky to be sent off against Croatia, Guivarc'h should certainly have been expelled when he elbowed Fabio Cannavaro, of Italy, in the face: so he can be thankful for small mercies. He did have one powerful right-foot drive saved against Croatia but still hardly looks the striker that France need.

Brazil will welcome back Cafú and his vigorous overlapping at right wing back, where the debutant, Ze Carlos, looked so uneasy against Holland. Taffarel, the Brazil goalkeeper, suddenly a hero thanks to his two penalty saves against Holland and after years of being disdained and marginalised, will hope to go out in glory. But France, in the agile and commanding Fabien Barthez, have the better goalkeeper, which is just as well.

BRAZIL (probable: 4-4-2): 1 Taffarel — 2 Cafu, 4 Junior Baiano, 3 Aldair, 6 Roberto Carlos — 5 César Sampaio, 8 Dunga, 10 Rivaldo, 18 Leonardo — 9 Ronaldo, 19 Denilson or 20 Bebeto.
FRANCE (probable: 1-3-4-2): 16 F Barthez — 18 F Leboeuf — 15 L Thuram, 3 M Desailly, 3 B Lizarazu — 12 T Henry, 10 Z Zidane, 7 D Deschamps, 17 E Petit — 6 Y Djorkaeff, 9 S Guivarc'h
Referee: S Belqola (Morocco)
COVERAGE (all live): Television: BBC1, ITV, Eurosport. Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live, Talk Radio. Kick-off: 8pm.

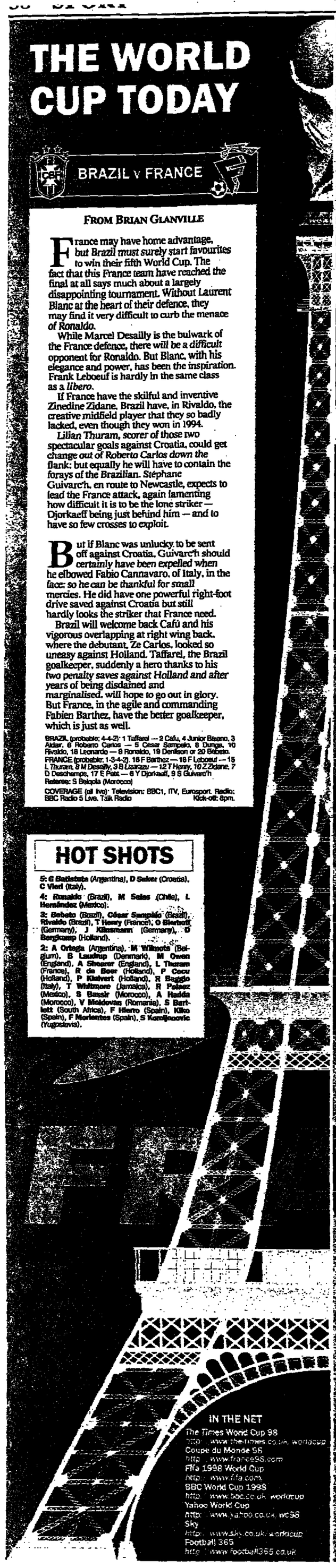
HOT SHOTS

5: G Batistuta (Argentina), D Suker (Croatia), C Vieri (Italy).

4: Ronaldo (Brazil), M Salas (Chile), L Hernández (Mexico).

3: Bebeto (Brazil), César Sampaio (Brazil), Rivaldo (Brazil), T Henry (France), O Bierhoff (Germany), J Klinsmann (Germany), D Bergkamp (Holland).

2: A Ortega (Argentina), M Wilmots (Belgium), B Laudrup (Denmark), M Owen (England), A Shearer (England), L Thuram (France), R de Boer (Holland), F Cocu (Holland), P Kluivert (Holland), R Baggio (Italy), T Whitmore (Jamaica), R Palacz (Mexico), S Bassir (Morocco), A Hadda (Morocco), V Moldovan (Romania), S Bartlett (South Africa), F Hierro (Spain), Kiko (Spain), F Morientes (Spain), S Komiljenovic (Yugoslavia).



FINAL

Sunday July 12 — **FINAL: Brazil v France** — Stade de France — 8pm — BBC1/ITV, R5L/Talk

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Saturday July 11 — **THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF: Holland v Croatia** — Parc des Princes — 8pm — ITV, R5L/Talk

July 9 & 10 — REST DAYS

SEMI-FINALS

Wednesday July 8	**France 2** (Thuram 47, 70) **Croatia 1** (Suker 46)	76,000
Tuesday July 7	**Brazil 1** (Ronaldo 46) **Holland 1** (Kluivert 87) (aet; Brazil win 4-2 on penalties)	54,000

July 5 & 6 — REST DAYS

QUARTER-FINALS

Saturday July 4	**Holland 2** (Kluivert 12; Bergkamp 90) **Argentina 1** (López 18)	55,000
	Germany 0 Croatia 3 (Jarni 45; Vlaovic 80; Suker 85)	39,100
Friday July 3	**Italy 0 France 0** (aet; France win 4-3 on penalties)	77,000
	Brazil 3 (Bebeto 11; Rivaldo 26, 60) **Denmark 2** (Jorgensen 2; B Laudrup 50)	35,500

July 1 & 2 — REST DAYS

SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)

Tuesday June 30	**Romania 0 Croatia 1** (Suker 45, pen)	34,700
	Argentina 2 (Batistuta 6, pen; Zanetti 45) **England 2** (Shearer 10, pen; Owen 16) (aet; Argentina win 4-3 on penalties)	30,600
Monday June 29	**Germany 2** (Klinsmann 75; Bierhoff 86) **Mexico 1** (Hernández 47)	35,000
	Holland 2 (Bergkamp 37; Davids 90) **Yugoslavia 1** (Komljenovic 49)	36,500
Sunday June 28	**France 1** (Blanc 114) **Paraguay 0** (aet)	41,275
	Nigeria 1 (Babangida 77) **Denmark 4** (Moller 3; B Laudrup 12; Sand 59; Helveg 76)	79,500
Saturday June 27	**Italy 1** (Vieri 18) **Norway 0**	59,500
	Brazil 4 (César Sampaio 11, 27; Ronaldo 45, pen, 70) **Chile 1** (Salas 68)	48,500

FIRST ROUND

Friday June 26	Group H **Japan 1** (Nakayama 75) **Jamaica 2** (Whitmore 39, 54)	43,500
	Group H **Argentina 1** (Pineda 36) **Croatia 0**	35,000
	Group G **Romania 1** (Moldovan 72) **Tunisia 1** (Souayah 10, pen)	80,000
	Group G **Colombia 0 England 2** (Anderton 20; Beckham 30)	41,275
Thursday June 25	Group E **Belgium 1** (Nilis 7) **South Korea 1** (Yoo Sang-Chul 70)	48,500
	Group E **Holland 2** (Cocu 4; R de Boer 19) **Mexico 2** (Pelaez 75; Hernández 90)	35,500
	Group F **Germany 2** (Bierhoff 50; Klinsmann 58) **Iran 0**	35,000
	Group F **United States 0 Yugoslavia 1** (Komljenovic 4)	39,000
Wednesday June 24	Group C **France 2** (Djorkaeff 13, pen; Petit 56) **Denmark 1** (M Laudrup 42, pen)	43,500
	Group C **S Africa 2** (Bartlett 18, 90, pen) **S Arabia 2** (Al-Jaber 45, pen; Al-Thnayan 73, pen)	34,500
	Group D **Spain 6** (Hierro 6, pen; Luis Enrique 18; Morientes 53, 81; Kiko 88, 90) **Bulgaria 1** (Kostadinov 56)	40,500
	Group D **Nigeria 1** (Oruma 11) **Paraguay 3** (Ayala 1; Benitez 59; Cardoso 86)	36,500
Tuesday June 23	Group B **Italy 2** (Vieri 49, R Baggio 90) **Austria 1** (Herzog 90, pen)	75,000
	Group B **Chile 1** (Sierra 21) **Cameroon 1** (Mboma 56)	39,000
	Group A **Scotland 0 Morocco 3** (Bassir 22, 85; Hadda 47)	35,500
	Group A **Brazil 1** (Bebeto 78) **Norway 2** (L A Flo 83; Rekdal 88, pen)	55,000
Monday June 22	Group G **Colombia 1** (Preciado 83) **Tunisia 0**	35,000
	Group G **Romania 2** (Moldovan 47; Petrescu 90) **England 1** (Owen 83)	36,500
Sunday June 21	Group F **Germany 2** (Mihajlovic 73, 88; Bierhoff 90) **Yugoslavia 2** (Mijatovic 13; Stojkovic 54)	40,775
	Group H **Argentina 5** (Ortega 32, 55; Batistuta 73, 79, 83, pen) **Jamaica 0**	48,500
	Group F **United States 1** (McBride 87) **Iran 2** (Estili 40; Mahdavikia 84)	43,500
Saturday June 20	Group H **Japan 0 Croatia 1** (Suker 77)	39,000
	Group E **Belgium 2** (Wilmots 43, 48) **Mexico 2** (Garcia Aspe 56, pen; Blanco 63)	34,750
	Group E **Holland 5** (Cocu 37; Overmars 41; Bergkamp 71; Van Hooijdonk 79; R de Boer 83) **South Korea 0**	55,000
Friday June 19	Group D **Nigeria 1** (Ikpeba 27) **Bulgaria 0**	48,500
	Group D **Spain 0 Paraguay 0**	35,300
Thursday June 18	Group C **South Africa 1** (McCarthy 52) **Denmark 1** (Nielsen 13)	36,500
	Group C **France 4** (Henry 36, 77; Trezeguet 68; Lizarazu 85) **Saudi Arabia 0**	75,000
Wednesday June 17	Group B **Chile 1** (Salas 70) **Austria 1** (Vastic 90)	30,392
	Group B **Italy 3** (Di Biagio 8; Vieri 75, 89) **Cameroon 0**	35,590
Tuesday June 16	Group A **Scotland 1** (Burley 67) **Norway 1** (H Flo 46)	30,236
	Group A **Brazil 3** (Ronaldo 9; Rivaldo 45; Bebeto 50) **Morocco 0**	33,266
Monday June 15	Group G **England 2** (Shearer 42; Scholes 90) **Tunisia 0**	54,587
	Group G **Romania 1** (Ilie 45) **Colombia 0**	37,572
	Group F **Germany 2** (Möller 9; Klinsmann 65) **United States 0**	43,815
Sunday June 14	Group H **Argentina 1** (Batistuta 28) **Japan 0**	33,400
	Group F **Yugoslavia 1** (Mihajlovic 73) **Iran 0**	30,392
	Group H **Jamaica 1** (Earle 45) **Croatia 3** (Stanic 27; Prosinecki 53; Suker 69)	38,058
Saturday June 13	Group D **Spain 2** (Hierro 21; Raúl 47) **Nigeria 3** (Adepoju 24; Zubizarreta 73, og; Olseh 78)	33,257
	Group E **South Korea 1** (Ha Seok-Ju 27) **Mexico 3** (Pelaez 51; Hernández 74, 82)	37,588
	Group E **Holland 0 Belgium 0**	75,000
Friday June 12	Group D **Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0**	27,650
	Group C **Saudi Arabia 0 Denmark 1** (Rieper 68)	38,140
	Group C **France 3** (Dugarry 35; Issa 78, og; Henry 90) **South Africa 0**	55,077
Thursday June 11	Group B **Italy 2** (Vieri 10; R Baggio 85, pen) **Chile 2** (Salas 45, 50)	31,800
	Group B **Cameroon 1** (Njanka 77) **Austria 1** (Polster 90)	33,460
Wednesday June 10	Group A **Brazil 2** (César Sampaio 4; Boyd 73, og) **Scotland 1** (Collins 38, pen)	80,000
	Group A **Morocco 2** (Hadji 38; Hadda 59) **Norway 2** (Chippo 45, og; Eggen 61)	29,750

THE GROUPS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Norway	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Morocco	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Chile	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Austria	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Cameroon	3	0	2	1	2	5	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
South Africa	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
S Arabia	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
Paraguay	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Spain	3	1	1	1	8	4	4
Bulgaria	3	0	1	2	1	7	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	1	2	0	7	2	5
Mexico	3	1	2	0	7	5	5
Belgium	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
South Korea	3	0	1	2	2	9	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Iran	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
US	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
England	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Colombia	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Jamaica	3	1	0	2	3	9	3
Japan	3	0	0	3	1	4	0

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA

The third-place play-off constitutes not so much a gala occasion as a halt on the road to the airport. Players are chafing to fly home and enjoy what little rest they can before the new season begins. The future is crowding in and Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, is now linked with the vacancy at Real Madrid.

Thoughts will drift away from the World Cup. Jaap Stam, the Holland centre half, did not trouble to watch Wednesday's semi-final on television, preferring to go for dinner in Juan-les-Pins. The defender is aggressive enough to apply himself in the match with Croatia at the Parc des Princes tonight, but there is a history of indifference to the fixture.

England were beaten in it by Italy, in 1990, and Neil Webb, the midfield player, has stated that any faint enthusiasm disappeared when they were told beforehand that both sides would be receiving bronze medals regardless of the outcome.

All the same, attitudes can vary. Four years ago, an eager Sweden easily defeated a jaded Bulgaria to secure third place. The match can have its uses for particular individuals as well. Davor Suker, of Croatia, is tied with Gabriel Batistuta, of Argentina, and Christian Vieri, of Italy, in the race for the Golden Boot, but this last outing could see him add to his five goals and assume the outright lead.

Holland may also find a purpose in the game, even if it is of a much less happy nature. After the agonising defeat by Brazil on penalty kicks, it might be as well to make the memories recede by hurling themselves back into another bout of football. The Croatia coach has made a rather strained attempt to enliven his own players. Having judged that Holland were actually superior to Brazil, Miroslav Blazevic said that Croatia now have the motivation of beating the best team at the World Cup.

HOLLAND (probable: 4-4-2): 1 E van der Sar — 20 A Winter, 3 J Stam, 4 F de Boer, 5 A Numan — 7 R de Boer, 10 C Seedorf, 18 E Davids, 11 P Cocu — 8 D Bergkamp, 9 P Kluivert.
CROATIA (probable: 3-4-1-2): 1 D Ladic — 6 S Bilic, 4 I Stimac, 15 I Tudor — 13 M Stanic, 14 Z Soldo, 7 A Asanovic, 17 R Jarni — 10 Z Boban — 19 G Vlaovic, 9 D Suker.
Referee: E Chavez (Paraguay).
COVERAGE (all live): Television: ITV, Eurosport. Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live, Talk Radio. Kick-off: 8pm

CAUTIONS

Brazil: Have no absentees as a result of suspension.

Croatia: Dario Simic received a second yellow card in the semi-finals and therefore misses the third-place play-off.

France: Laurent Blanc was sent off in the semi-finals and therefore misses the final.

Holland: Have no absentees as a result of suspension.

WORLD'S BIGGEST BET

Not only do Brazil have the weight of a nation upon them tomorrow night, but also the knowledge that £240,000 at even money has been wagered on their winning the final in the 90 minutes. A punter has put the money on at William Hill, which expects that the tournament overall will become the first betting event to produce an industry turnover in excess of £100 million.

TELEVISION
All matches live on ITV

RADIO
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TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Hakkinen ready to receive Formula One crown after years of waiting

Driven by his date with destiny

By Kevin Eason


GEORGES SCHNEIDER

Focused: Hakkinen has set his sights on winning the world drivers' championship since he started in Formula One motor racing seven years ago

THE gaze was straight and unswerving, the ice-blue eyes unblinking as Mika Hakkinen confronted what he believes is his destiny. The Finn has been preparing to be crowned the best driver in the world from the moment he first stepped into a Formula One car seven years ago. He never expected anything less and the RAC British Grand Prix this weekend is simply another step on what has been a long and tortuous path.

As Silverstone bustled with preparations yesterday, there was time for quiet reflection for the man who leads the championship at the halfway stage. There was no arrogance in the analysis that this should be his year, only the acknowledgement that the best-prepared car in the field probably has the best-prepared driver.

"It took a long time for me to get to this situation and it does not feel strange," he said. "I have been preparing myself for winning and being in the leading position in the championship, so now it is happening. I feel that this was what I expected. I have the team, car, engine, tyres to do that and I am going to work hard. I know Ferrari will work hard but I will work harder."

Hakkinen has a calm about him that makes some of the hysteria of Formula One seem foolish and shallow, particularly the drum-banging from the Ferrari camp that has raised extravagant claims that McLaren had lost the plot since their early season dominance and Michael Schumacher was poised to walk away with the championship. Attempting psychological games with a man who has been to the edge and back is pointless and Hakkinen will not enter a war of words.

"I have raced for many years. I have huge experience," he said. "I have seen three or four times more than most drivers in the field and if there is a more mentally prepared driver, I will be surprised.

"Words don't mean anything. You do your talking on the track. It just shows weakness in them because we are leading the championship. I am in the fortunate position that the Ferraris have to catch me, so I have to keep doing what I have been doing."

That cool approach has often been interpreted as lack of emotion but the tears that followed his first victory last year displayed the soft centre of a tough man. His team have also responded to a driver who is only in Formula One today after a miraculous escape from death.

Hakkinen came to Formula One in 1991 with a reputation as potentially the fastest driver of them all, faster even than Schumacher. After two years with a struggling Lotus team, he moved to McLaren where he audaciously out-qualified Ayrton Senna in Portugal. However, his serene progress to the top came to a halt at the final race of 1995 in Adelaide when he crashed.

Hakkinen was pulled unconscious from his shattered McLaren and sank into a coma; if he lived, the prognosis was that he would never drive again. The millions who witnessed events in Melbourne this year, when his team-mate, David Coulthard, was told to move over to allow Hakkinen through to win, and decried such a contrived victory, could not have understood the significance of that moment for McLaren and the team's director, Ron Dennis.

It is said their relationship deepened as Dennis waited for Hakkinen to recover from his injuries and it is hardly surprising that the team now holds a special affection for the Finn, even if, potentially, it is to Coulthard's detriment. If there is discrimination against the Scot, Hakkinen wants no part of it. Nor does he want special favours from his team-mate in the final eight races of this season, shunning the suggestion that Coulthard plays the role as team No 2 to allow Hakkinen a clear run at the title.

"David is going flat out at the moment and he will be quick in the races to come. He has had a lot of bad luck and it would be silly to take away his chance. It would not be right to put him to one side to save my neck in the championship and it would not help the situation at all."

There would also be no point in souring a relationship that seems to have blossomed this season. The pair are a Formula One Morecambe and Wise: Coulthard, 27, the wise-cracking, talkative party animal, who likes fast cars and motorcycles; Hakkinen, 30 in a few weeks, introspective, newly married to his long-time girlfriend, Erja, whose greatest extravagance for their Monaco apartment is, apparently, a tortoise.

They remain favourites to win tomorrow although Hakkinen is likely to emerge unruffled whatever happens at Silverstone. He will not allow the pursuit of his destiny to be rattled by the noise and fury of a grand prix. In the maelstrom, he believes he must remain a centre of calm.

"The thing about racing is controlling your emotions," he said. "If you get excited or negative you will make mistakes. People were expecting us to be fast at Silverstone, but I would not expect a big gap between the cars. There is no point in worrying what others are doing because it is not going to make any difference. I only have to worry about what I do."



Dark days: Hakkinen after his crash during practice in Adelaide in 1995

Coulthard seeking start of something special

By Kevin Eason

BLACK and silver reigned everywhere, down to the expensive marble floor that gleamed with an intimidating sheen more in keeping with an operating theatre than a pit garage. McLaren engineers stared at banks of television screens watching cars packed with the technology of a jet fighter prove themselves the most powerful on the circuit.

Just a few yards away in a motorhome that looks like a fiery red space shuttle, Ferrari executives were also watching, but in the dark of their own mission control on a cinema-size screen that drops from the roof lining.

Silverstone tomorrow will witness one of the most expensive duels in sport played out between McLaren and Ferrari, the richest teams in Formula One, whose combined budgets are estimated at more than £130 million. That money buys the best designers, the best engineers and ultimately the best cars to win the world championship.

Amid the machinery, though, remains the one element that team managers cannot control: the character of the drivers. For David Coulthard, Silverstone is a summit he must conquer if he wants to stay in touch with Mika Hakkinen, his team-mate and championship leader, and second-placed Michael Schumacher.

But he went through the emotional experience of realising yesterday that he could win on home soil after leading the practice sessions. Becoming the tenth Briton to win the British Grand Prix, joining the likes of Stirling Moss, Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart, would be his "dream come true". He said: "I like to keep an even head usually, but I was feeling quite emotional. It hit me as I was going down Hangar Straight and looked at the crowds. I got a nice twinge in my stomach."

Expected rain would play into the hands of Michael Schumacher, the acknowledged master of the wet, and Coulthard believes that the German already holds a psychological edge without the weather, having won the past two races while Coulthard has managed only one point in three grands prix. The Scot said: "Ferrari are on the crest of a wave. We all know that few people can take on Michael Schumacher in the wet, but I have beaten him before, so I will have to beat him again."

McLaren have tried to lengthen the odds against Hakkinen and Coulthard falling at the first hurdle, as they did in France a fortnight ago, when they were overtaken at the start by the Ferraris of Schumacher and Eddie Irvine. Hakkinen and Coulthard were sent to the Santa Pod Raceway dragster circuit in Northamptonshire last week for starting practice.

Two McLarens on the front row will be uncatchable in a dry race if they can hold off the Ferraris to the first corner. But France proved that the start holds a special terror for every driver on the grid: Jos Verstappen forced the restart after he stalled his Stewart-Ford; Hakkinen lost pole at the restart because he could not co-ordinate the hair-trigger hand-clutch with the struggle to hold back his Mercedes engine.

The tension of the start is so great that it has wormed deep into the mind of one driver. Eddie Jordan has made Ralf Schumacher practise starts, but time and again the first seconds of the race have proved the German's undoing. Jordan thinks he understands the problem. "People have difficulty in fully realising just what the pressure is like out on the grid," he said.

"It is almost impossible to hear where the engine revs are and when to drop the clutch at the lights. It is an art and some are brilliant at it, some are not. It becomes a bit of a psychological thing when you get it wrong."

There may be no more crucial start for Coulthard than in the RAC British Grand Prix tomorrow. It could be the difference between failure and that dream come true.

Schumacher keeps cool as storm approaches

By Alix Ramsay

BRIEFING and debriefing, tweaking and tuning — it was practice day at Silverstone, a day of noise and effort that could all be rendered pretty pointless come Sunday. In what has become a distinctly damp and depressing summer, the only man allowing himself a quiet smile was Michael Schumacher. He was seventh yesterday — but yesterday was dry and the forecast is for wind and rain. Schumacher likes the rain.

It is no surprise that he is supreme in the wet, but somehow it does not seem to sit well with the image of the team, for Ferrari, the heart of Formula One, is Italian, passionate and desperate for success. In Italy, the obsessions are football and cars, the *Azzurri* and *Tifosi*.

Win the lottery and you, too, can own a Ferrari, a gleaming, red driving machine, a direct descendant of Schumacher's workhorse. Try and buy a part of Benetton and all you get is a perfectly folded woollen pullover.

It was 1979 when a Ferrari driver last won the world championship and 1983 since the team topped the constructors' table and the pressure to clamber back to the top of the heap is immense. Formula One has moved on since those days and aerodynamics is the name of the game. Ferrari have scoured the globe to find the right combination of experts to make the team great again. Chief among the experts in Schumacher, who costs £20 million a year.

Around the Ferrari camp the chatter is loud and in Italian. Among this warmth, Schumacher is a cold and unapproachable figure. The focus of this passionate Italian obsession comes wrapped in heat-resistant overalls and flame-retardant underwear.

He would, he said, like to sit and talk over a cup of coffee, but he cannot drink 300 cups of coffee in a morning so he does not talk at all. Well, not much. When he does, he is short and sharp and does not suffer fools gladly.

With all the new regulations this year are the cars fun to drive a brave soul asked yesterday, only to be greeted with a *Mogadon* stare. "We have had more spins this year," the great man said.

Taking his courage in both hands, the inquisitor pressed on: should there be a code of conduct for the drivers? "We have had different incidents and accidents with different results," Schumacher said after a long pause. He is not a man for idle chit-chat.

If the Ferrari name invokes a Cavalier spirit, prancing horse and all, Schumacher is a definite Roundhead. His team colleagues claim he has brought with him a new enthusiasm. If he wants the mechanics to work through the night to get something right, he will work alongside them. "The Italians will work like the Germans and the German will take the passion from the Italians," is how Ferrari's Claudio Berro saw the combination working. But having taken the passion, what does Schumacher do with it? Those famous collisions with Jacques Villeneuve and Damon Hill smacked more of calculated tactics than road rage.

Schumacher, who remains totally self-contained, has no rival in the Ferrari pecking order. His team-mate, Eddie Irvine, may be the perfect outspoken counterbalance to the former champion but he knows his place. He is paid to be No 2 and there is no room for negotiation.

"The season has gone well but Michael's has gone better and that's where I want to be," he said yesterday. "Sometimes it's like banging your head against a brick wall and it's not the easiest shot in the world but compared to the other guys it's not so bad."

So, as the mechanics and technicians make sure that everything is in place for tomorrow, what does Schumacher need to win at Silverstone? "For the car to finish and for me to do well," he said. The Roundhead has his prancing horse well and truly under control.



Schumacher in relaxed mood in the Ferrari garage

THE RACE FOR THE DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

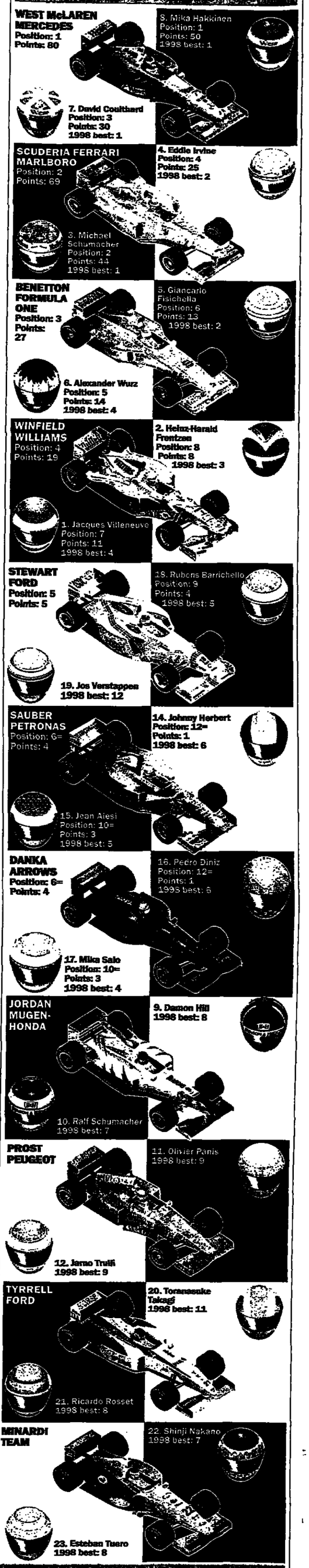
	Australian	Brazilian	Argentine	San Marino	Spanish	Monaco	Canadian	French	Total points
Hakkinen	10	10	6		10	10		4	50
M Schumacher		4	10	6	4		10	10	44
Coulthard	6	6	1	10	6			1	30
Irvine	3		4	4		4	4	6	25
Wurz		3	3		3		3	2	14
Fisichella		1				6	6		13
Villeneuve	2			3	1	2		3	11
Frentzen	4	2		2					8
Barrichello					2		2		4
Alesi			2	1		3			3
Salo									3
Herbert	1					1			1
Diniz							1		1
Magnussen									1

A grand prix win is worth 10 points, second place 6, third 4, fourth 3, fifth 2 and sixth 1

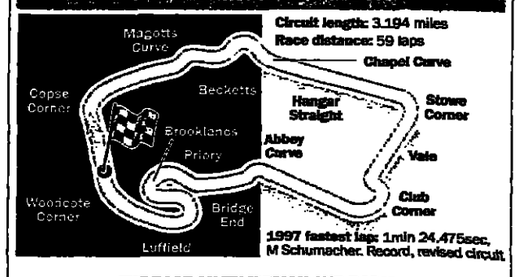
PRACTICE TIMES

1, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1min 26.640sec; 2, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1.25.764; 3, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 1.26.107; 4, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1.26.114; 5, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1.26.791; 6, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1.26.840; 7, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1.26.844; 8, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 1.27.121; 9, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1.27.460; 10, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1.27.667; 11, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1.27.878; 12, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) 1.28.136; 13, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1.28.258; 14, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1.28.339; 15, J Trulli (It, Prost) 1.28.685; 16, J Verstappen (Holl, Stewart) 1.28.983; 17, O Panis (Fr, Prost) 1.29.193; 18, M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1.29.282; 19, P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 1.29.375; 20, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell) 1.29.664; 21, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi) 1.30.090; 22, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi) 1.30.265.

GRAND PRIX 1998 — HOW THEY STAND FOR BRITAIN



THE SILVERSTONE CIRCUIT



THE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO

ITV: Qualifying Today 12.25 Race Tomorrow 12.55pm (live), 10.30pm (highlights)

RADIO: Race live in Sunday Sport on BBC Radio 5 Live

GOLF

Outside bet keeps his challenge on track

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ROSS DRUMMOND was putting his golf clubs in the boot of his car. He had just completed a round that had not gone entirely to plan and he looked sad. Claire, his wife, standing alongside, with concern written all over her face, gave every appearance of *wanting to be protective of her* man.

That, however, was in southern Spain last November when Drummond had not played well enough to regain his card to compete on the PGA European Tour this year. Yesterday, Drummond, having been given an unexpected opportunity to play in the World Invitational at Loch Lomond, continued his brave attempt to hold off many more fancied competitors and thus add a handsome winner's cheque to the £20,000 he has won so far this year.

It was not only Drummond's lead that was under attack. The course was under a watery siege from torrential rain that fell for much of the day and caused play to be *suspended soon after teatime.* At that moment Drummond was five under par after 13 holes of his third round, as were Dennis Edlund and David Howell. Lee Westwood had taken over the lead at six under.

The sympathy vote went to Drummond. "I would like Ross Drummond to win here," *Colin Montgomerie said,* unprompted. "He is from Prestwick and I am from Troon and I've known him for a long, long time. He has obviously had a difficult time these past few years and it's great he has been given the opportunity to play this week and is taking advantage of it.

"I don't mind if he wins at my expense. If I go on and win that's fine but I would almost prefer that he wins right now. I've got the Open coming up. I feel for people in his position. It is not just a bad year, it's the loss of a job if you don't keep your card. A card is a job. I have been fortunate never to have been in that position. All credit to Ross for him to come out here and take his chance. I really do hope he wins."

These were warm and generous words from Montgomerie to a rival, though it has to be said they followed a round in which Montgomerie had demonstrated why he, ranked sixth in the world, is *more likely to win than Drum*mond who is not in the top 200. He only got into this event when David Love III withdrew late last week. Montgomerie's 68 was the round of a man easing towards peak form and the more the damp, miserable day wore on, the better his total of two under par looked.

There was one moment of aberration, just as there had been one bad lapse on Thursday. Then it was a six on the 14th; yesterday the six came on the 2nd, both holes being par-fours.

Montgomerie said he was unlucky because he hit a four-iron into a group of spectators from where his ball ricocheted into a tree. A less partial observer might suggest that his ball should not have been frightening the spectators in the first place.

Montgomerie compensated for this mistake with birdies at his last two holes. That same four-iron behaved itself from the tee on the short 17th and in went the 15-foot putt. On the 18th, he played a stroke that demonstrated why he is such a good player. From damp sand he picked his ball out cleanly with a six-iron. It travelled 185 yards, finished within 15 feet and Montgomerie holed that one, too.

Montgomerie is one stroke ahead of José María Olazábal whose 69 was marked by bogies on the 3rd, 4th and 5th. After that, Olazábal appeared to have the ball on a string, covering the next 14 holes in five under par with a series of spectacularly accurate iron shots. He hit a four-iron to nine feet on the 10th, an eight-iron to three feet on the 7th and his sand-wedge to five feet or less on the 9th and 14th.

Olazábal is close to his best and with the Open next week on his mind is happy with his game. His driving remains a worry but, just as it has a *disturbing tendency to go to* pieces, so he should remember that when it is in pieces it can suddenly get better.



Drummond: in contention

SCORES

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS (round incomplete, rain, Great Britain and Ireland unless stated). 210: K Eriksson (Swe) 73, 72, 65; D Cooper 75, 68, 67. 211: C Montgomerie 72, 71, 68; A Cejka (Ger) 71, 71, 69. 212: R Allenby (Aus) 72, 72, 68; J M Olazábal (Spl 72, 71, 69; C Hainline (US) 75, 68, 71; E Romero (Arg) 71, 70, 71. 213: J Haeggman (Swe) 73, 71, 69; M Florioli (It) 73, 71, 69; C Dennis (US) 74, 68, 71; P McGinley 72, 69, 72. 214: I Garbutt 73, 69, 72. 215: P Sjoland (Swe) 74, 73, 68; O Karlsson (Swe) 74, 72, 69; T Bjorn (Den) 73, 72, 70; S Field 75, 70, 70; T Gogele (Ger) 76, 69, 70; D Robertson 72, 72, 71; S Cink (US) 70, 74, 71; S Torrance 73, 70, 72; P Baker 73, 69, 73. 216: S Ames (Trin) 75, 71, 70; I Garrido (Sp) 72, 73, 71; P Fulke (Swe) 75, 69, 72; J Parnevik (Swe) 71, 73, 72; J van de Velde (Fr) 71, 72, 73. 217: D Gilford 74, 72, 71; J Payne 74, 70, 73

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Di Lampard, on Abbervail Dream, and her Great Britain team-mates failed to find their best form yesterday

France riding higher as British team put in faulty performance

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

FRANCE, the leaders in the Samsung Nations Cup series, extended their winning margin after a decisive victory in the Nations Cup event at The Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead yesterday. The success, in which France relegated a crack Germany team to second place, is their fourth in succession this season and their seventh in the British round of the Nations Cup since the event moved to Hickstead in 1975.

"Everything is coming right for us," Patrick Caron, the France team manager, said. "We have good horses and good owners and it has given all the riders confidence." Their assured touch was underlined by the fourth rider, Thierry Pomel, on Thor des Chaines. Pomel, a horse dealer from near Lyons, was the last to go in the second round and had to be clear for France to stay ahead of Germany. "I like that sort of pressure," Pomel said after delivering a second clear round.

Britain, the winners on the past three occasions, finished fifth out of six, despite fielding their best team. "I'm bitterly disappointed," Ronnie Massarella, the team manager, said. "It was a fair course, there are no excuses. It was nothing to do with pressure, they didn't perform."

Unusually, Michael Whitaker and Virtual Village Ashley, the first to go, collected 12.50 faults, which included a refusal at fence 4, the white Derby rails. Although there was no obvious reason for Ashley's loss of form, Whitaker thought he may have tired him by taking him in the jump-off of the British Grand Prix on Thursday, in which they finished sixth.

When Di Lampard, the second to go for Britain on Abbervail Dream, incurred 12 faults the die was cast. Lampard had been considered the mainstay of the team after two superb double clear rounds in both the Modena and Lucerne Nations Cups last month. "Perhaps she was just a little overconfident after those performances," Massarella said.

John Whitaker, who had eight faults in the first round on Virtual Village Heyman, did have an excuse in that this was the nine-year-old gelding's first appearance in a Nations Cup. They acquitted themselves well until Heyman backed off the imposing combination at fence 11, faulting there and again at the final big oxer.

Talking horse 46

Despite a valiant effort by Geoff Billington and Virtual Village It's Otto, who were faultless in the first round, Britain were in a humiliating sixth place at the halfway stage. Happily, there were plenty of inspiring performances, notably from the two French riders, Pomel, and Roger-Yves Bost, on Airborne Montecillo, and the German brothers, Ludger Beerbaum, the European champion on Ratina Z, and his younger brother, Markus, on Lady Weingart.

In the second round Germany put pressure on France when the Beerbaum brothers both completed double clear rounds. Ireland dropped to fourth place behind Holland. Britain rallied with clear rounds from Michael Whitaker and Lampard, but their revival was shortlived. Billington, who has completed a double clear round in the event on the last two occasions, hit fences 3 and 8 with the exuberant It's Otto. A further four faults from John Whitaker confirmed the home team's downfall.

With Britain now lying in joint-eleventh place in the Samsung Nations Cup series there is little prospect of the team reaching the final in Germany in September, for which the top six qualify, and the selectors are now concentrating on grooming the team for the world championships in Rome in October.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Deal delayed by issue of promotion

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WHETHER Wakefield Trinity, or whoever wins the first division title, can earn promotion to the JJB Super League remains the sticking-point preventing the final acceptance of the revised £56 million television contract with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

Wakefield have led the first division since mid-April. While the 12 Super League clubs are jaunting across the country on a three-week missionary exercise, Trinity, two points clear, are concentrating on more prosaic matters. Widnes Vikings, in ninth place, provide the opposition at Belle Vue tomorrow.

Although not opposed to the £10.8 million "buy-out" portion of the contract allocated to first and second division clubs, a majority of them are holding out against conditions attached to promotion to the Super League.

The plan is to replace the existing News Corporation contract with a revised one until 2003, without amendments to the "Path to Super League" document. But there is strong opposition to the proposal that promotion will not be allowed if clubs cannot raise working capital of £500,000.

By taking away the Super League as a future goal, the fear is that ambition will be stifled. The rebel first and second division clubs want the £500,000 proviso scrapped, although the experiences of Huddersfield Giants and Hull Sharks, promoted last year, have shown that this amount is not nearly enough.

Sufficient votes can probably be mustered to ratify the proposed contract at the special meeting of the Rugby League Council next Wednesday, but unity is Sir Rodney Walker's overriding priority before he departs as Rugby Football League (RFL) chairman at the end of the season.

Given the abrasive relationship between Super League Europe (SLE), the leading clubs' umbrella organisation, the RFL, the game's governing body, and lower division clubs, Walker has a tough job instilling trust before he bows out to concentrate on his new chairmanship of the UK Sports Council.

Walker said this week: "We have to get rid of the tension that exists so that we can focus on the game and not the peripheral issues. I think it's a tragedy of the highest order that the RFL's own marketing organisation is prevented from assisting in the promotion of Super League."

Despite a £25,000 marketing campaign in the North East by SLE, after it rejected the RFL's offer of help, only 1,000 seats had been sold at Gateshead before the first "on the road" game between Leeds Rhinos and Salford Reds last night. The same number have already been sold for the Wigan Warriors v St Helens game, at Swansea on July 26, admittedly the most attractive fixture.

As a leading franchise applicant, Gateshead would be aiming at crowds of 7,000 next year. Were they to be admitted, Wakefield would have to finance significant team strengthening and a radical overhaul of Belle Vue to remain at the elite level. Despite impressive results, their home average this season is 1,800.



Walker: wants harmony

After five successive tour wins in Australia, the Great Britain amateur side meets the Australian Aboriginals in the first international match in Sydney tomorrow hoping to emulate the victory in their last meeting, which levelled the home series between the sides in 1996.

Rodney Howe, the Melbourne and Australia prop forward, yesterday became the third player in the Australian National Rugby League competition this season to be banned for 22 matches after he was found guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs. A tribunal rejected his defence that he had injected stanozolol to assist his recovery from injury and heard that he had also taken a second steroid, andriol, in tablet form.

RUGBY UNION: AUSTRALIA NEED FLY HALF TO STAND OUT AGAINST ALL BLACKS

Larkham must take control

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE northern-hemisphere sides have been and gone. The real rugby challenges start here. That, unquestionably, is the view taken of the opening game in the tri-nations series in Melbourne today. Australia play New Zealand for the Bledisloe Cup, and, more importantly, have a chance to test their outstanding 1998 form against the best team in the world.

Record victories over England and Scotland last month have given the Wallabies renewed confidence that they can attain once more the heights of the early 1990s, when they won the World Cup and played some stunningly inventive football. But the ultimate challenge is still to beat the All Blacks, and at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, in front of an anticipated crowd of 80,000, John Eales will lead his team into battle knowing that their season will take off should they win.

Given that it is nearly four years since Australia last beat their rivals from across the Tasman Sea, it will be a tall order. If they do, much will be down to the performance of Stephen Larkham at fly half. He is still an international novice in the position, and, despite promising displays this year so far, it must be remembered that they came against undemanding opposition. Josh Kronfeld breathing down his throat may be a different proposition entirely.

Larkham must launch his pacy, talented back division if Australia are to beat the All Blacks, and his control of the game — against no mean slouch in Andrew Mehrtens — will be critical when one considers the experience of the New Zealand eight. John Eales, the Australia captain, must win enough lineout ball against the most experienced second-row pairing in the world. But if Australia get the lion's share of possession, the ingredients are there for an explosive start to the series.

AUSTRALIA: M Burke; B Tune, D Herbert, T Horan, J Roff; S Larkham, G Gregan; R Harry, P Kearns, A Blades, J Eales (captain), T Bowman, M Cockbain, D Wilson, T Kotu
NEW ZEALAND: C Cullen, J Wilson, S McLeod, W Little, J Vidiri, A Mehrtens, J Marshall, C Dowd, A Oliver, O Brown, I Jones, R Brooke, M Jones, J Kronfeld, T Randell (captain)
Referee: C Thomas (Wales)

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup Final
11.0, 50 overs
LORD'S: Leicestershire v Essex
International match
11.0, 50 overs
EDINBURGH: Scotland v Bangladesh
Northern Electric Trophy
11.0, 50 overs
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Durham

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Scottish women's national championships (at Ayr Northfield).
EQUESTRIANISM: Royal International Horse Show (at Hickstead)
FOOTBALL: Club matches: Manchester City v Sunderland (3.0); Gloucester City v Wolverhampton Wanderers (3.0), Boreham Wood v Barnet (3.0); Dagenham and Redbridge v Leyton Orient (3.0), Glentoran v Queens Park Rangers (3.0); St Patrick's Athletic v Norwich (7.45), Longford Town v Mansfield Town (7.0), Dunfermline v East Fife (1.0), Montrose v Preston North End (3.00), Yeovil v Swindon Town (3.0), Galway United v Bolton (3.0)
GOLF: Loch Lomond world invitational
HOCKEY: European Nations Cup qualifier (in Dundee) Russia v Denmark (2.0); Scotland v Switzerland (4.30)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Coventry v King's Lynn (7.30); Eastbourne v Swindon (7.30) Premier League: Berwick v Sheffield (7.0), Stoke v Newcastle (7.0)
SWIMMING: National championships (at Sheffield)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Axa League
2.0, 40 overs
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Kent
1.0, 40 overs
DERBY: Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Tour matches
11.0, 50 overs
DUBLIN: Ireland v South Africans
EDINBURGH: Scotland v Bangladesh
10.45, 50 overs
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Sri Lankans
WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: Scarborough: England v Australia
MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: First day of two. New Brighton: Cheshire v Berkshire. St Austell: Cornwall v Dorset. Long Marston: Hertfordshire v Buckinghamshire. Cleethorpes: Lincolnshire v Cambridgeshire. Ipswich School: Suffolk v Bedfordshire. South Wiltshire: Wiltshire v Oxfordshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

First division
Leigh v Keighley (3.0)
Rochdale v Hunslet (3.0)
Wakefield v Widnes (3.30)
Whitehaven v Hull KR (3.30)

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: National 100-km team time-trial championship (at King's Lynn).
EQUESTRIANISM: Royal International Horse Show (at Hickstead)
FOOTBALL: Club matches: Newcastle Town v Penrith Vale (2.30), Bohemians v Heart of Midlothian (3.0)
MOTOR RACING: British Grand Prix (at Silverstone)
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Glasgow v Sheffield (3.0) Newcastle v Edinburgh (3.0) Newport v Berwick (2.30)
SWIMMING: National championships (at Sheffield)

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

Boyes Stores Challenge
Tim Rice International XI v The Yorkshiremen

SCARBOROUGH (*Tim Rice International XI won toss*) *Tim Rice International XI beat The Yorkshireman by five wickets*

YORKSHIREMEN

A McGrath b Young	69
M J Wood lbw b Young	41
*D Byas c Boon b Langer	70
B Parker b Lehmann	11
R J Blakey c Slater b Langer	1
†S J Rhodes not out	50
D Gough c and b Langer	0
C E W Silverwood c Saudan b Langer	0
R J Sharp not out	4
Extras (b 8, w 9)	17
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	254

J Wood and P M Hutchison did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-100, 2-121, 3-157, 4-199, 5-225, 6-226, 7-234

BOWLING Mason 6-0-20-0; Saudan 7-1-34-0; Harvey 9-1-48-0; Young 10-0-60-2; Lehmann 10-0-45-1; Langer 8-0-39-4

TIM RICE INTL XI

M J Slater c Byas b Hutchison	16
†R J Campbell run out	27
J L Langer c McGrath b J Wood	48
M Mott run out McGrath	35
D S Lehmann c Rhodes b Silverwood	28
D C Boon not out	36
*T M Moody not out	47
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 8, nb 6)	22
Total (5 wkts, 49.1 overs)	257

B E Young, I J Harvey, J C Saudan and M M Mason did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-27, 2-82, 3-105, 4-159, 5-181

BOWLING Gough 10-1-41-0; Silverwood 10-1-40-1; Hutchison 9-0-53-1; J Wood 9-1-35-1; Sharp 5-0-30-0; McGrath 6-0-50-0

Umpires: J H Hampshire and B Leadbeater

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of four: Studley: Warwickshire 335 (T Frost 115, M A Sheikh 80) and 372-3 dec (M J Powell 134 not out, T Frost 102 not out, A Singh 51). Worcestershire 472-9 dec (E C Wilson 156, A Haigh 119, R C Driver 77). Match drawn. **Final day of three: Harrow:** Derbyshire 366-6 dec (S D Stubbings 84, I D Blackwell 58) and 267-7 dec (S P Griffith 73 not out, I D Blackwell 63). Middlesex 312-4 dec (D J Goodchild 146, D C Nash 127) and 87-4. Match drawn. **Chester-le-Street:** Sussex 325 (R K Rao 105, S Lugsden 5-73, I D Hunter 4-93). Durham 125 (A A Khan 4-22) and 172 (A A Khan 4-66, Sussex won by an innings and 28 runs. **Chelmsford:** Northamptonshire 318 (J Snape 106) and 347 dec (G Swann 68, G White 58, T Walton 55, R Warren 52). Essex 230 (D Cappel 5-57) and 257 (G Napier 51). Northamptonshire won by 168 runs. **Todmorden:** Yorkshire 363-6 dec and 245-5 dec (G M Fellows 150 not out, R Wilkinson 70). Hampshire 260 and 225-8 (L Savident 96). Match drawn. **Taunton:** Somerset 371-7 dec and 252-8 dec (N R Boulton 75, S J Randall 4-64). Nottinghamshire 324-2 dec and 193-7 (N M Bowen 76 not out, B J Trott 4-74). Match drawn. **Canterbury:** Kent 238 (C D Walsh 122, M Smethurst 5-60) and 220-8 dec (N J Llong 144; G Keedy 5-98). Lancashire 309-3 dec (M J Chilton 105 not out, M A Harvey 93 not out, S P Titchard 50) and 191-8 (D A Scott 4-58). Match drawn

ATHLETICS

OSLO: Bislett Games: Men: 100m: 1, F Fredericks (Namibia) 9.95sec; 2, M Grouno (US) 9.96; 3, F Obikwelu (Nigeria) 10.01. 200m: 1, A Boldon (Tnn) 20.23; 2, P Stevens (Bel) 20.65; 3, G Moen (Nor) 20.67. 400m: 1, M Richardson (GB) 44.37; 2, I Thomas (GB) 44.50; 3, M Johnson (US) 44.58. 800m: 1, V Rodal (Nor) 1min 44.17sec; 2, D Kipton (Ken) 1.44.44; 3, N Tellez (Cuba) 1.44.51. 1,500m: 1, H el Guermouj (Mor) 3.29.12; 2, L Rotich (Ken) 3.32.12; 3, D Komon (Ken) 3.33.93; 6, J Mayock (GB) 3.34.71. 3,000m: 1, H Gebrselassie (Eth) 7.27.42; 2, L Kipkosgei (Ken) 7.28.78; 3, J Kibowen (Ken) 7.29.08. 400m hurdles: 1, B Bronson (US) 47.94sec; 2, R Mushchenko (Russ) 48.32; 3, F Mori (It) 48.46. High jump: 1, A Partyka (Pol) 2.28m; 2, M Buss (Ger) 2.28; 3, S Klugin (Russ) 2.28. Pole vault: 1, J Hartwig (US) 5.90m; 2, J Gallonio (Fr) 5.80; equal 3, T Lobninger (Ger) and P Manson (US) 5.60m. Triple jump: 1, J Edwards (GB) 18.01m; 2, D Kapustin (Russ) 17.65; 3, C Fredick (Ger) 17.38. 5, J Golley (GB) 16.80. Javelin: 1, A Parviainen (Fin) 86.00m; 2, S Backley (GB) 85.44; 3, J Lukkarinen (Fin) 85.04. **Women:** 100m: 1, M Jones (US) 10.85sec; 2, Z Pintusevich (Ukr) 11.00; 3, C Gaines (US) 11.09. 400m: 1, C Opara (Nigeria) 50.13; 2, F Ogunkova (Nigeria) 50.15; 3, G Breuer (Ger) 50.49. 1,500m: 1, S Masterkova (Russ) 4min 01.37sec; 2, K Dulecha (Eth) 4.01.80; 3, G Szabo (Rom) 4.01.18. 100m hurdles: 1, M Morrison (US) 12.67sec; 2, C Dickey (US) 12.76; 3, P Girard (Fr) 12.83. Javelin: 1, T Damaskin (Gre) 66.57m; 2, M Ingeborg (Fin) 64.26; 3, D Batby (Ger) 63.39

BATTERSEA PARK: Chase Corporate Challenge road race (3.5 miles). **Men:** 1, P Green (Royal Mail Lintfield) 16min 34sec; 2, N Wetherington (NatWest Bank) 16.36; 3, S Toner (British Steel) 16.46. **Women:** 1, B Jenkins (Royal Mail Letters) 19.17; 2, S Griffiths (Royal Mail Letters) 19.37; 3, J Cornford (Cranch Brothers) 20.54

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Texas 4 Oakland 1; Minnesota 3 Cleveland 0; Detroit 4 Toronto 3, New York Yankees 2 Tampa Bay 0, Baltimore 3 Boston 2; Kansas City 6 Chicago White Sox 4, Seattle 8 Anaheim 6
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles 12 San Diego 3, Atlanta 6 Florida 4, Montreal 9 New York Mets 8 (11 inns); Milwaukee 12 Chicago Cubs, 9 Houston 5 St Louis 4

EQUESTRIANISM

HICKSTEAD: Royal International Horse Show: British Nations Cup: 1, France 4.25; 2, Germany 8, 3, Holland 16.25, 4, Ireland 20.25, 5, Great Britain 24, 6, Brazil 41. British team results: Virtual Village Ashley (M Whitaker) 12.50 and 0; Abbervail Dream (D Lampard) 12 and 0; Virtual Village It's Otto (G Billington) 0 and 8; Virtual Village Heyman (J Whitaker) 8 and 4. The Treadiate Trophy: 1, Millstreet Ruby (Capt J Ledingham, Ire) 0 in 57.28, 2, Audacity (D Lampard, GB) 0 in 69.01, 3, Tripdiate Interview (T Stockdale, GB) 0 in 61.31

GOLF

OSLO: European women's youth team championship. Flight one: Spain 4 Scotland 3 (foursome scores. Spain first M Prieto and N Clou lost to L Moffat and L Morton 3 and 2; M Garcia-Estrada and M Beaufoil lost to Laing and P Mackay 6 and 4. Singles: T Elosegui bt Laing 3 and 1; Beaufoil bt P Mckay one hole; Clou bt A Walker 4 and 3; Garcia-Estrada bt L McKay 6 and 5; Prieto lost to Moffat 2 and 1) England 5½; Denmark 1½. (foursome scores. England first. R Hudson and L Walkins bt M Bendixen and H Gram 2 and 1; C Court and S McKevitt lost to R Rasmussen and C Vagnor one hole; Singles. Hudson bt C Norgaard 6 and 4; Court bt Bondevic two holes; K Fisher bt Rasmussen 2 and 1; McKevitt bt Vagnor one hole; Walker halved with Gram)

ROWING

LUCERNE: World Cup Heats: British qualifiers. Men: Coxless pairs: S Williams and F Scarlott (Mnth 48.85sec Coxless fours: J Cruickhill, S Redgrave, T Foster and M Pinsent 6.10.40. **Women:** Single sculls: G Bolton 7.51.33. Coxless pairs: D Blackie and C Bishop 7.28.38

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE. Melbourne 22 Manly 12; Parramatta 22 Cronulla 12

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: ASA national championships and Commonwealth Games trials: **Men: Freestyle:** 50m: 1, M Foster (University of Bath) 23.01sec; 2, S Brinn (University of Bath) 23.15; 3, N Shackell (Millfield) 23.51. **Freestyle:** 1,500m: 1, G Smith (Stockport Metro) 15min 8.08sec; 2, I Wilson (City of Leeds) 15.31.53; 3, G Orphanides (Portsmouth Northsea) 15.51.14. **Backstroke:** 200m: 1, A Ruckwood (City of Birmingham) 2.01.90; 2, S Mildz (Portsmouth Northsea) 2.02.51; 3, N Wiley (University of Bath) 2.03.61. **Breaststroke:** 100m: 1, D Mow (University of Bath) 1.02.45; 2, R Maden (Rochdale Aquaborns) 1.03.07; 3, D Malek (Cz) 1.03.20. 4, A Whitehead (City of Coventry) 1.03.71. **400m medley:** 1, J Hackman (City of Leeds) 4.21.54; 2, J Vlcska (Cz) 4.24.75; 3, A Turner (City of Salford) 4.27.03. **Women: Freestyle:** 100m: 1, S Ralph (City of Newcastle) 55.79sec; 2, K Pickering (Ipswich) 56.23; 3, C Huddart (City of Leeds) 57.01. **Backstroke:** 200m: 1, H Dan-Duncan (Ashton Central) 2min 13.70sec; 2, K Saxton (Portsmouth Northsea) 2.15.15; 3, J Deakins (City of Coventry) 2.15.18. **Butterfly:** 50m: 1, Y Hlavacova (Cz) 27.95sec; 2, C Foot (York City Baths Club) 28.39; 3, R Brett (Loughborough University) 28.68

TENNIS

GSTAAD: Swiss Open. Quarter-finals: M Rios (Chile) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 7-5; B Becker (Ger) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; F Dewulf (Bel) bt N Hunter (Ger) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4; A Corretja (Sp) bt A Costa (Sp) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2
BASTAD, Swedish Open: Second round: T Johansson (Swe) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 7-6, 3-6, 7-6; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 7-6, 6-7, 7-6. Quarter-finals: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt J Gotmard (Fr) 6-7, 1-0, ret. Johansson bt K Alami (Mor), Medvedev bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 6-4; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt J Novak (Cz) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4
NEWPORT, Rhode Island: Hall of Fame championships: Second round: J Skytlanberg (Aus) bt L Hewitt (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; R Schuttler (Ger) bt S Sargsian (Arm) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4; J van Lottum (Holl) bt D Wheaton (US) 7-5, 1-4, 6-3
PRAGUE, Czech Open: Quarter-finals: S Tredud (Fr) bt S Farina (It) 7-6, 6-3, 6-2; H Nargvovn (Slovakia) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-1, 6-2
BRISTOL: Challenger Trophy: Quarter-finals: D van Uffelen (Brit) bt G Mandl (Austria) 6-4, 7-6; P Wessels (Holl) bt O Muths (Fr) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6; A Fenmra (Br) bt J Boulter (Fr) 6-3, 7-5; N Gould (Avon) bt W Arthurs (Aus) 6-4, 6-4

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Jeremy Whittle believes the champion faces a battle to retain his title

Ullrich has mountain to climb

THE opening prologue time-trial of the 1998 Tour de France today may be only a brief sprint through the streets of Dublin, but those hopeful of wearing the final yellow jersey in Paris know that the psychological blows struck in O'Connell Street may ultimately pay dividends on the Champs-Élysées.

When 189 of the leanest and fittest endurance athletes in the world roll down the start ramp in front of Trinity College, they will herald the beginning of a three-week adventure that, despite the appearance of France in the World Cup final tomorrow, grips the imagination of the French nation like no other sporting event.

Although it is unlikely that a French rider will have home supporters dancing in the streets of Paris all night this year, there is enough variety in the 1998 route of the Tour to suggest that the champion, Jan Ullrich, of Germany, will face challenges from a series of strong rivals.

The Tour could start on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe in the year 2000. Jean-Marie Leblanc, the race organiser, said yesterday that the project was under serious discussion. "We are considering something out of the ordinary for 2000. We are still studying the prospects and the feasibility."

If, as expected, Chris Boardman wins the short test against the clock this afternoon, the Wirral rider will have to defend the yellow jersey against the best sprinters in the world when the serious racing gets under way fully during the Tour's Irish sojourn.

The hilly loop through the Wicklow Mountains on Sunday finishes in Phoenix Park in Dublin on a straight well-suited to the sprinting powers of Mario Cipollini, of Italy, while on Monday the race heads south from Enniscorthy to Cork, on another course that suits itself well to a bunch gallop to the finishing line.

After the Tour completes the logistically daunting overnight transfer from Cork to Brittany, racing resumes the next day in Roscoff where the convoy begins its long trek south towards the Pyrenees.

The first real test for Ullrich and Bjarne Riis, the 1996 Tour winner, and the other pre-race favourites, comes in the long and deceptively demanding time-trial from the tiny village of Meyrignac-l'Église to Correze, on the fringes of the Dordogne.

From there the Tour makes its way to Pau, the traditional launch pad for the mountain passes of the Pyrenees.

Stage ten, which takes in four mammoth climbs, will certainly see the climbers move forward while the sprinters, who will have done their best to animate the race on the long haul south from Dublin, drop to the back of the field, hoping to survive the mountains and to reappear at the front as the race comes out of the Alps.

It is here, in his favourite hunting ground, that Richard Virenque, of France, second to Ullrich in 1997, will make his first bid to shatter the German rider's title defences.

"The Pau-Luchon stage is the biggest day in the mountains this year," Virenque said, "but the finish is in a valley at Luchon. Only the climb of the Col du Tourmalet will create problems, but I think it's too far from the finish to make a big difference."

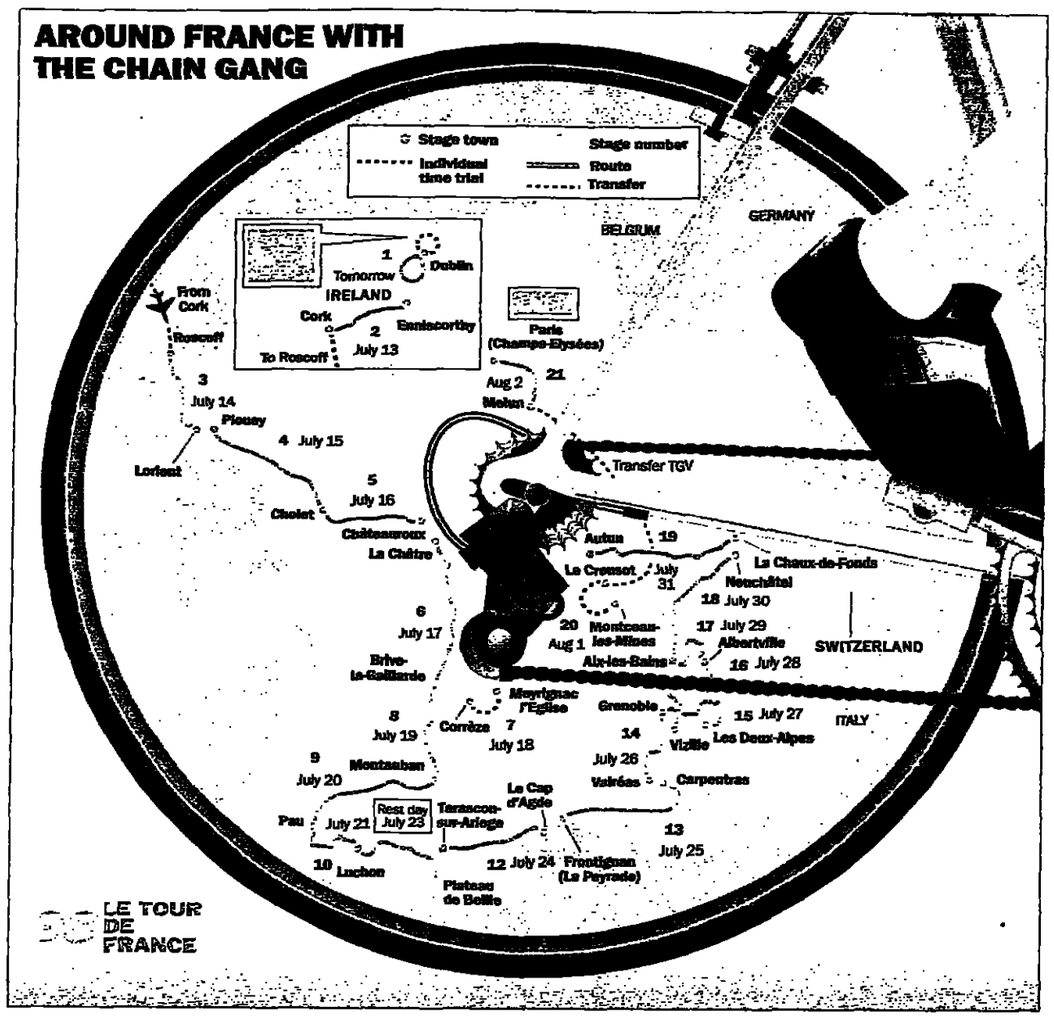
Virenque, who may strike up an uneasy temporary alliance with his arch-rival, the Italian climber, Marco Pantani, will have to attack again during the second Pyreneean stage to the summit finish at Plateau de Beille.

The 15-kilometre climb to this remote cross-country ski station is one of the most testing of the Tour and, with no descent to follow, those who lose time on the lower slopes will have no opportunity to claw it back later in the stage. Virenque, who consistently out-performs his rivals in the mountains, only to lose ground in the time-trials, is unimpressed by the difficulty of the stages.

"The finish at Plateau de Beille isn't that frightening," he said. "There will be gaps after the climb on the Col de Portet d'Aspet but at 120 kilometres from the line, it is still too far to make a big difference."

From the Pyrenees the race heads east across the French Midi towards four circuitous stages in the Alps, which centre on two particularly brutal days in the Haute Savoie region.

Stage 15 to the ski resort at Les Deux Alpes takes in the giant Col du Galibier shortly before the long climb to the finish. The following afternoon, the field climb the mountain that caused Ullrich his most testing moments during the 1997 race, the unrelenting Col de la Madeleine.



TODAY: Prologue: Dublin (5.7km).

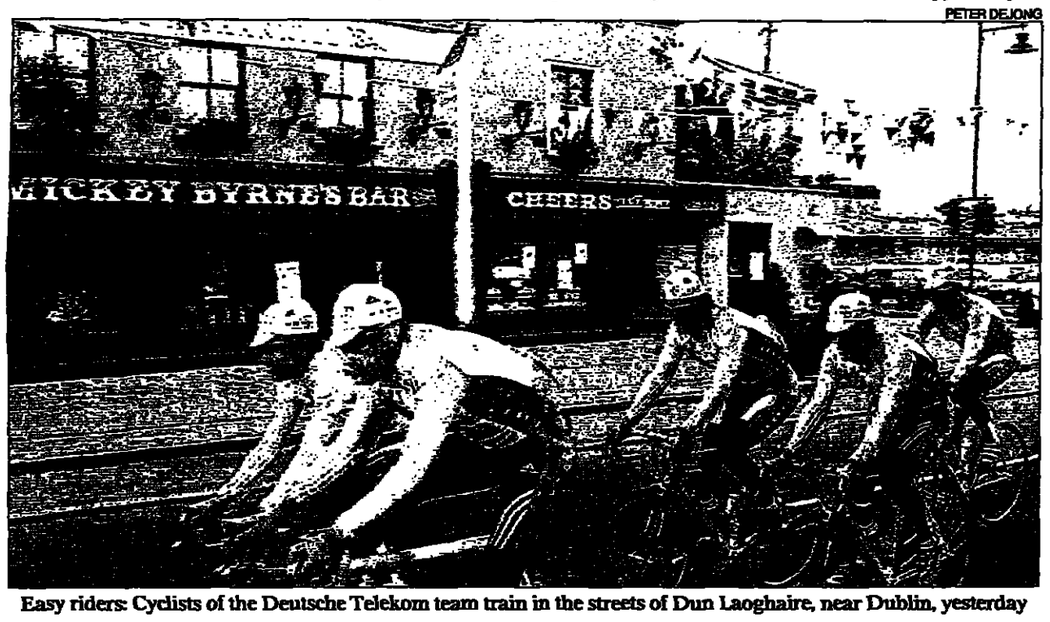
TOMORROW: First stage: Time-trial in Dublin (180km).

In spite of the inclusion of many of the traditional mountainous battlegrounds of the Tour, Virenque's assertion that this is a Tour route tailor-made for Ullrich compares with similar complaints from leading riders during the Miguel Induráin era, when time-trials ruled the roost.

In fact, with eight kilometres less time-trialling than last year, it is more like the unpredictable and dramatic Tour of 1996, when Riis, Ullrich's mentor, ambushed the faltering Induráin in the mountains.

"People say that this Tour is not as hard as last year, but I disagree," Riis said. "What makes the Tour particularly hard is how fast the riders race. There are few changes to the route from year to year."

PRINCIPAL MOUNTAIN CLIMBS: Stage 10: Pau-Luchon (197 km): Col d'Aubisque (1,709 metres above sea level) 16.5km at 7.2%; Col du Soulor (1,474m) 2.2km at 5%; Col du Tourmalet (2,115m) 18.4km at 7.7%; Col d'Aspin (1,489m) 13km at 4.7%; Col de Peyresourde (1,569m) 9.7km at 6.7%. Stage 11: Luchon-Plateau de Beille (170km): Col de Mente (1,349m) 9.3 km at 8.9%; Col de Portet d'Aspet (1,069m) 4.4km at 9.7%; Col de la Core (1,395m) 14.2 km at 5.8%; Col de Port (1,249 m) 12.9km at 4.8%; Plateau de Beille (1,747 m) 16.2km at 7.3%. Stage 15: Grenoble-Les Deux Alpes (189km): Col de la Croix de Fer (2,067 m) 24.5km at 5.1%; Col du Télégraphe (1,566m) 11.9km at 6.7%; Col du Galibier (2,645 m) 18.5km at 6.6%; Les Deux Alpes (1,644 m) 8.8km at 6.8%. Stage 16: Vizille-Albertville Col de Porte (1,340 m) 15.1km at 7.2%; Col du Cucheron (1,140 m) 4.3km at 7.3%; Col du Granier (1,134 m) 8.5km at 5.5%; Col du Grand Cucheron (1,188 m) 18.5km at 4.3%; Col de la Madeleine (2,000m) 19.4km at 7.7%.



Easy riders: Cyclists of the Deutsche Telekom team train in the streets of Dun Laoghaire, near Dublin, yesterday

GUIDE TO THE MAIN CONTENDERS IN THE TOUR DE FRANCE



Jan Ullrich (Ger)

Team: Deutsche Telekom. Age: 24. Tour highlights: 1996, second overall, one stage win; 1997, winner, two stage wins.

Strengths: Has been the outstanding performer in the past two Tours de France, even though in 1996 he was bound by obligation to ride for Bjarne Riis, his team leader. On top form, his time-trial performance is peerless and his powerful climbing allows him to stay with the very best in the mountains, as he demonstrated in the recent Tour of Switzerland.

Weaknesses: In 1997, the cracks in Ullrich's armour appeared in the final week of the Tour, when, under assault from the Festina team, his grip on the race lead looked fragile. After a spring spent battling back to top racing form, his lack of hard training and relative immaturity may tell in the Tour's final week.



Alex Zülle (Switz)

Team: Festina. Age: 30. Tour highlights: 1994, eighth overall; 1995, second overall, one stage win; 1996, 26th overall, prologue time-trial winner.

Strengths: Zülle, brought in last winter by the Festina team to win the Tour, now has the pedigree and experience to improve on his runner-up spot of 1995. An accomplished time-trialist and excellent climber, he may prove to be Ullrich's most dangerous challenger.

Weaknesses: Zülle started the final week of the Tour of Italy last month comfortably in the race lead, but collapsed in the steep climbs of the Dolomites. His fragile morale will have taken some rebuilding and the delicate politics of his team, in which he shares leadership duties with Virenque are also likely to influence his final Tour result.

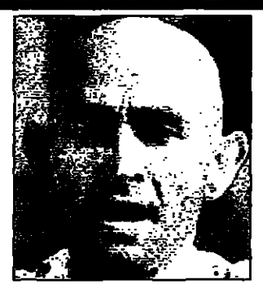


Abraham Olano (Sp)

Team: Banesto. Age: 28. Tour highlights: 1994, 30th overall; 1996, ninth overall; 1997, fourth overall, one time-trial stage win.

Strengths: Like his Spanish mentor, Miguel Induráin, Olano comes into his own in long time trials. The route this year, with 111 kilometres of mainly flat time-trialling, will suit the 28-year-old Basque rider but he will need the support of his strong team in the mountains.

Weaknesses: In the wake of the legendary Induráin, Olano has to bear the burden of Spanish expectation — even his fourth place last year was seen by his national media as a great disappointment. The steepest mountain climbs remain a problem for him, in spite of months of specific training and an impressive weight loss.



Marco Pantani (It)

Team: Mercatone Uno. Age: 28. Tour highlights: 1994, third overall; 1995, 13th overall, two stage wins; 1997, third overall, two stage wins.

Strengths: The most exciting mountain climber of his generation, Pantani — known as the "Flying Elephant", "Dumbo" and "The Fly" — is now an Italian icon after his spectacular win in the Tour of Italy last month. His time-trialling has greatly improved and, backed by a strong and motivated team, the 28-year-old may still be in contention as the race nears Paris.

Weaknesses: Until recently, Pantani's time-trialling cost him dearly, as he lost minutes to riders who could not hope to keep pace with him in the mountains. Although that fault has been partially corrected, the two long and flat time-trials on this year's route do him few favours.



Richard Virenque (Fr)

Team: Festina. Age: 28. Tour highlights: 1992, 25th overall; 1993, 19th overall; 1994, fifth overall, one stage win, King of the Mountains; 1995, ninth overall, one stage win, King of the Mountains; 1996, third overall, King of the Mountains; 1997, second overall, one stage win, King of the Mountains.

Strengths: Virenque is one of France's most popular sportsmen. An inspirational climber and exuberant showman who is backed by a very strong team, he can be relied upon to attack in the mountains this year.

Weaknesses: The Tour will either make or break Virenque's uneasy alliance with Alex Zülle, his new co-leader. The pair say they will work together, but Virenque is unaccustomed to playing second fiddle to any of his team-mates.



Bjarne Riis (Den)

Team: Deutsche Telekom. Age: 34. Tour highlights: 1996, winner overall, two stage wins; 1995, third overall; 1993, fifth overall and one stage win; 1997, seventh overall.

Strengths: There are few riders in the peloton with the depth of experience and tactical cunning of Riis. In 1996, as he had predicted, he broke the grip of Miguel Induráin on the Tour, with a series of blistering attacks in the mountain stages. After his disastrous defence last year, he looks back to his best.

Weaknesses: Riis collapsed badly last year under the pressure of defending his 1996 title and was abandoned by his largely German Telekom team-mates as they clustered around Ullrich, their compatriot. Although Telekom's management protest otherwise, there may be divisive conflict this year.

SPORT IN BRIEF

England seek to wrap up series

■ **NETBALL:** England are confident of clinching the three-match series against a combined West Indies side when they take on the touring team in the second international at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham this afternoon (Cathy Harris writes). The final match of the series is at Pond's Forge, Sheffield on Wednesday. Triumphing 56-48, England's victory in Hemel Hempstead on Thursday evening was their first on home soil since November 1995 and only their second against West Indies in eight internationals since the teams first met in 1949. Four contests have been drawn with West Indies also winning twice.

ENGLAND COMMONWEALTH GAMES SQUAD: F Murtagh (Chingford, captain), L Law (Chingford), K Aspinall (Wigan), L Carpenter (London), H Manuflor (Acton), O Murphy (Burton on Trent), T Neville (Bury), A Newton (Stratford), L Sdao (Hampton Hill), N Siddall (Barnsley), L Stanley (Sunderland), J Zinzan (Enfield)

Scotland advance

■ **GOLF: Scotland, the holders, will meet Sweden while Wales will take on Finland in the semi-finals of the European youth team championship over the Royal Waterloo course, Belgium, today. Graham Fox, 21, from West Kilbride, was Scotland's hero after winning the vital point that gave his country a 4-3 victory over the much-touted England, who included four senior internationals in their line-up. Ireland were bitterly disappointed to be well beaten 6½-½ by Sweden after being in favourable positions in both the morning foursomes early on.**

Fortunes revived

■ **BOWLS:** Australia's fortunes took a turn for the worse after a heavy defeat by England recently, but spirits were raised by a closely fought international against South Africa. Although losing 2-1, Australia forced nailbiting finishes in both the triples and pairs. Yorkshire, the Walker Cup holders, were denied a place in the quarter-finals of the women's national two fours championship by Lincolnshire, but Somerset, the 1996 champions, reached the last eight with a narrow victory over Worcestershire.

Crump apologises

■ **SPEEDWAY: Jason Crump, the former world under-21 champion from Australia, has issued a public apology to the Oxford supporters after throwing a punch at one of his team-mates. Crump hit his compatriot, Todd Wiltshire, after blaming him for a crash that could keep him out for the rest of the month.**

☐ **Berwick, the struggling Premier League team, have signed Martin Dixon, the veteran rider.**

Becker serves notice

■ **TENNIS:** Boris Becker, right, of Germany, edged closer to his first clay-court title yesterday when he secured a place in the semi-finals of the Swiss Open in Gstaad after a 6-4, 6-4 win over the champion, Felix Mantilla, of Spain. Becker, who is ranked No 119 in the world, showed flashes of the form that won him six grand-slam titles and now faces the No 1 seed, Marcelo Rios.



Australia's day

■ **CRICKET: Australians held sway on the first day of the Scarborough Festival as Tim Rice's International XI beat Yorkshire by five wickets with five balls to spare. The Yorkshiremen, put into bat, made 254 for seven in their 50 overs. Justin Langer, with 46, and Darren Lehmann, who made 28, paved the way for an unbroken match-winning stand of 76 between David Boon and Tom Moody.**

Letham moves closer

■ **BOWLS:** Margaret Letham, from the Burnbank club in Hamilton, moved to within two games of capturing the Scottish singles title at Ayr Northfield yesterday after two comfortable wins. Letham ended the hopes of June Burnett, of Culter, 21-11 in her morning second-round match and then recovered from 8-1 down to beat Helen McLean, of Oban, 21-8 in her afternoon quarter-final.

CYCLING

Brite future beckons for the golden team

BY PETER BRYAN

TEAM Brite, the all-conquering squad of this year, looks set to win another set of gold medals in the British 1,000 kilometres team time-trial championship near King's Lynn tomorrow.

Their line-up includes Jon Clay, Rob Hayles and Matthew Illingworth and they set a national 4,000 metres record of 4min 11.189sec last month in the final round of the World Cup. The fourth rider on that occasion was Bryan Steele.

Chris Newton, the winner of the Manx international trial, has since replaced Steele, who has been selected in the team's B squad together with Colin Sturgess, John Tanner, the former world pursuit champion, and Chris Walker.

Earlier this week, Clay, Hayles, Illingworth and Steele were named as England's pursuit squad for the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The same quartet are likely to contest the world championship in Bordeaux next month.

Hayles, who is already Britain's ten-mile and 25-mile champion, finished a week of serious and strenuous preparation for the title bid tomorrow with a four-hour training ride that followed a fast ten-mile time-trial of 19min 08sec the previous day, when he was using a single fixed gear of 100in. Hayles also dominated a town centre race at Guildford on Wednesday.

Sean Yates, a former Tour de France stage winner, will lead the main challenge to the Brite riders with his Team Clean colleagues, Richard Prebble, Tim Stevens and Dave Akam.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

The Feathery



1825 – The golfer's favourite ball, well, the only ball available in the year Standard Life came into being. Made of pieces of dry leather and you've guessed it, feathers.

Gutta Percha



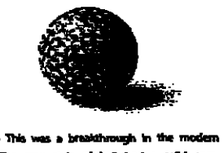
1860 – By now this had become the choice of discerning golfers everywhere, in much the same way Standard Life was becoming the preferred choice among people who wanted a good return on their investment.

Hand Hammered Gutta



1870 – Ball manufacturers had found that the chips made by repeated hitting enabled the ball to travel further. Incidentally Standard Life were also travelling further with 70% of their business coming from abroad.

Wound Rubber Ball



1900 – This was a breakthrough in the modern game. The new style of ball had a solid core. Something that Standard Life had been enjoying for years now.

Modern Ball



1930 – Advances in materials and regularity in the construction of the ball meant that people could rely on consistent performance whatever the conditions. Now, who does that remind you of?

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Spinner offered chance to stake claim against former county in Benson and Hedges Cup final

Such seeking to force England turnstile

ALAN LEE





WINSTON BYNORTH

Such is a more rounded performer these days, his improvement with the bat enhancing a reputation among fellow players as the most consistently effective off spinner

Peter Such is a throwback to an age when cricket was less driven by energy and egalitarianism. He might have been more comfortable in the 1950s, when those whose natural habitat is No 11 were not expected to concern themselves with the vulgarities of making runs or dirtying their flannels in the field. Nine years ago, as a frustrated spin bowler whose batting and fielding were comical, he felt so marginalised that early, disillusioned retirement seemed inevitable.

That, though, was when Such was playing for Leicestershire. Today, at Lord's, he plays against them in the Benson and Hedges Cup final for Essex, his third county but the first at which he has felt fulfilled. Since 1990 Such has played for England, won two championships and reached three cup finals. Fellow players consider him the most consistently effective of off spinners. Most notably, nobody laughs at his batting and fielding any more — or not so often, anyway.

Time was when the admission money at Grace Road or Trent Bridge was amply repaid by the entertainment value of a Such innings, though one usually had to be alert to avoid missing it. Co-ordination and courage were not his strong points and the sight of a fast bowler approaching was invariably enough to begin his jelly-kneed retreat towards square leg.

Now he has a half-century to his name, for goodness sake, and last week he outstayed his welcome as a nightwatchman by batting for 32 overs at Derby. He has a new batting style — crouched, with weight on the front foot and bat semi-raised — that is strikingly reminiscent of his former captain, Graham Gooch, at least until the ball is delivered.

A student of the game with a self-effacing recall of his own performances, Such cheerfully relates the tale of his county debut for Nottinghamshire in 1982. "It was at Lord's, oddly enough," he said. "I'd just finished my A levels and the county had an injury crisis. I got nought for 70, bagged a pair and we lost by an innings."

He played his second game a fortnight later. "I got another pair," he mused. "Sylvester Clarke this time. The one thing I was proud of was that I was out leg-before, so I must have got in line. I was a real rabbit. It took me about eight innings to score my first run. I always took it pretty seriously, but it never seemed to work out."

He managed three runs in eight matches in 1982; seven years later, little had improved — he played nine championship games for Leicestershire and mustered 15. By then, though, it was the fact that he only played half the games that was distressing him. "I had moved to Leicester because I was assured there was a big opportunity for me, but it never really materialised," he said. "In my second season they had a change of policy and, with seamers such as Ferris, Benjamin, Agnew, Taylor and DeFreitas, there was no room for a spinner. I ended up stagnating and by the end of my third year I knew I had to get away.

"I never wanted to give up the game, but I had to face the fact that I might be forced into it. In the late 1980s we had high-seamed balls, green pitches and seamers bowling leg breaks at 80mph. I would probably have gone out of cricket if Essex had not given me a lifeline."

He looks back now on the "dispiriting" days before his second career move and knows there are others suffering the same fate. Specialist spin bowlers, he feels, are being slowly forced from the game. "I haven't played on one turning pitch this year," he said. "I know it has been an unusually wet summer but this is a trend. In the past ten years, fewer and fewer overs have been bowled by spin bowlers and I can't see that being reversed. This year could be one of the all-time lows.

"It's got harder and harder, playing on relaid pitches that don't do anything for the finger spinner. All they do is crack and get uneven, which helps the seamers. This doesn't encourage any youngsters to take up spin bowling. What it does encourage is the batter who can bowl a bit. It is a shift in the game and unless something is done to encourage spin bowling, the next four or five years will see the specialists forced out."

The regard in which his peers hold him is obvious from his recent elevation to vice-chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA). Sober and steady, with the straight-backed gait appropriate to the son of a naval officer, he does not, however, quite fit the Identikit of a trade union officer.

He is not as convinced as the majority of players by the arguments for a two-division championship but he bridles at the view, expressed by one venerable correspondent, that such matters are best left to those older and wiser than the members of the PCA. "Players understand the running of the modern game better than most and we must be allowed our say. If we are not competing at international level, then something needs changing."

His own opinion is that the dearth of proper practice areas on most county grounds is a more urgent matter than further programme changes.

Such has occasionally stunned his team-mates by changing his conformist appearance — he once dyed his hair orange and, another year, grew a goatee beard — but it was not really him. He is a traditionalist at heart and a romantic, too. He has always lived a village life — "can't stand towns, too many people" — and proposed to his girlfriend, Nicky, at Victoria Falls last New Year's Eve.

He has not given up the thought that he might yet play Test cricket again and five years ago, when he took six wickets against Australia on his debut at Old Trafford, he had hoped for more than eight caps. "I have felt frustrated and disappointed by being overlooked for four years," he said. "Not many people have taken the volume of wickets I've achieved and I feel I've deserved more opportunities."

When he was omitted from the tour of the West Indies in 1994, he learnt the news through Ceefax. "I was shocked. I thought, 'Christ, what have I done?' The truth, though, is that Such made way for Phil Tufnell, who was far more likely to have skeletons to worry about. Such's problem is that everyone perceives him as such a decent, uncomplaining chap that he has occasionally been a doormat, his talents not properly recognised. The grand stage today offers one more opportunity to redress the balance.

Reactionary rising above downbeat mood

OF ALL those with a part to play in the valedictory Benson and Hedges Cup final today, the most appropriate figure is Peter Edwards (Alan Lee writes). There is a common sense of relief at the passing of this competition, a view that it epitomises the short-sighted crowding of the domestic fixture list and its undermining influence on the national team. Do not expect Edwards to concur.

Edwards has failed in his campaign to preserve the second of the knockout cups but he has not softened in his trenchant support of it. "I am very reluctant to see it go and if there was a vote among the counties now, I think it would be reinstated," he said. It is fitting, then, that Essex, to whom Edwards has been general manager for 20 years, should be on hand to administer the last rites.

Edwards, 61, does not exude the air of reactionary ogre, which is one of the politer things he has been called. He peers owlishly through his spectacles and walks painfully with a stick since gangrene claimed the toes of his left foot. But there is no one in cricket who underestimates his tenacious desire that things should remain largely as they are.

> 'If there was a vote among the counties now, I think the cup would be reinstated'

"I know it's been said that I try to block everything," he concedes, "but I don't feel I am a reactionary figure or a crank. I'm not against everything but I do see things from the members' point of view, probably because I was an Essex member for 30 years before I came to this job."

In a week when the minds of many have been exercised by the latest alarm bells in the game, Edwards is singing from a different songsheet. "I feel more buoyant about cricket than I have for years," he said. "I am very confident about the future."

The future according to Edwards, however, should not be markedly different to the past. Or at least this is the perception of a man who has become a champion of the smaller county. Their respect for him is evident, for he is the only county secretary nominated to the 15-strong management committee of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

A year ago, though, as Lord MacLaurin, the board's chairman, went public on his support for a two-division county championship, Edwards was the magnet for all those opposed to the idea. He knew, before the meeting that almost led to MacLaurin's resignation, that sufficient opposition had been co-ordinated. He feels the same would happen if the cause were revived.

"It was a fairly conclusive vote against and I have not heard of any clubs changing their minds," Edwards said. "I keep reading that Lord MacLaurin's plan was kicked out last year, but it wasn't. Ninety-five per cent of it was put in place and we supported it. We should give it time to see how it works."

Edwards concluded: "I read some articles last week suggesting everything is going down the pan, but it isn't. Cricket is such a vibrant sport, it will always survive, despite what we do to it." As one who has watched first-class cricket on 114 grounds, and today enjoys his ninth Essex cup final, no one can say Edwards is not entitled to his view.



Edwards: more optimistic than ever about the English game

30p THE TIMES

LAST CHANCE TO WIN

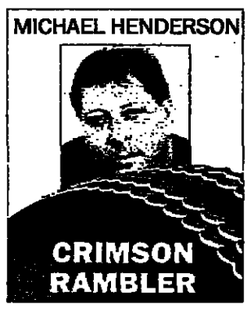
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Soul of indiscretion hopes to flower again

MICHAEL HENDERSON



CRIMSON RAMBLER

I went up river last week and met Mr Kurtz. Earringed, ponytailed and in need of a shave, he was dreaming of the world he left behind years ago, hoping against hope that people would come to see it through his eyes.

Hands up, those who remember Tim Hudson. In the mid-Eighties, when he represented Ian Botham and tried to position him as "the first rock'n'roll cricketer", he was a *fromage grande*. Those were the balmy days of "Lord" Tim, an identity he cultivated in his disc jockey days in California 20 years earlier, and he remains an unapologetic hippy.

Kurtz, the trader in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, went up the Congo and lost his emotional compass. (Coppola, famously, transposed the setting to Vietnam in his heroic failure of a film, *Apocalypse Now*). Hudson is not that wild. He lives in a pavilion adjoining a cricket ground outside Macclesfield. Years ago he used to own the land and staged matches there, of the jazz-hat variety. He was rich, then, or gave the impression of having a few bob. Now he is skint, but in his dreams he will rise again.

Birtles was worth a visit. England were playing a Test match of such wretched dullness at Old Trafford (this was before the exciting final day) that the whole ground was plunged into despair. English cricket is in greater need of new voices than ever before, and they are not exactly making themselves heard. Hudson would say he was telling people this, in his highly individual way, 15 years ago, though his methods of reform were peculiar, to say the least.

My mind went back to the Trent Bridge Test of 1985, the year that David Gower seemed to bat all summer against Australia. As he was making a hundred full of easeful strokes, Botham's manager held court in the bleachers, surrounded by some youthful toadies, all clad in blazers cut from the same gaudy cloth.

That was the best of days. Robert Madge, jester supreme, persuaded a jobsworth to come up with an ice bucket for the wine ("I think you'll find that money tends to grease the wheels") and, along with Barrie Atherton, another dear friend no longer with us, alas, we settled into a harmonious rhythm, disturbed only by the colourful ruminations of the man in front.

It was when he said that Lancashire should merge with Manchester United that the dam broke. Baz almost choked on the vino. Bobby was all for throttling him. That there wasn't an "incident" that day can be put down entirely to the casual brilliance of Gower's batting. Strangely, *Wisden* does not record this.

That was Hudson all over. A man who made Derek Draper look like the soul of discretion. He claimed, when he stood for election to the Lancashire committee, that he had "invented flower power" and discovered that such boasting does not sit well in towns like Accrington. After the inevitable falling-out with Botham, he drifted back to California.

This is no time to mock a man who, for all his imperfections, loved the game in his way. The man I saw last week looked lost, as tribesmen often do when outsiders invade their natural habitat, but he is no longer in a position to hurt anybody, except himself.

They still had games at Birtles, he said, but he'd given up with stars: they let you down. He wanted to turn the ground into a northern Glyndebourne, but it looked run-down to me.

The wicket was derelict, the outfield grass was like Kansas in August. Flags of all nations, and none, fluttered everywhere. Beyond the boundary at square leg was a papier-mâché sculpture of a batsman playing a sweep. There are no prizes for guessing who he resembled.

The Sixties, now they were great times. He knew everybody and there, in the shack he calls home, were pictures of pop stars, memorabilia of all kinds and cuttings from newspapers, local, national and international. One man and his feats dominated the room, and his name began with the letter "B".

You haven't come to stitch me up, have you? he asked. No, I hadn't come to do that. I could say that truthfully. The cricket was so dull, and I had an hour to kill. It was all a bit sad, to see somebody reduced to this sort of life. He gave me a mug of tea. I gave him a pair of pads I no longer need ("buckskin", he noted with approval) and left him to his dreams.

MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT



Stars in stripes: Botham, Hudson and Viv Richards in the days of rock'n'roll cricket

ROWING

Fours back winning tra

By Mike Ros

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Benson and Hedges Cup final: competition takes its final bow after 26 years

Leicestershire's chance to finish how they started

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

LEICESTERSHIRE were the first winners of the Benson and Hedges Cup, in 1972, when Raymond Illingworth was their captain, and the success helped to give them an identity. Today they will strive to win the last final, for the sake of symmetry, as well as to put themselves level with Lancashire as four-time victors.

Essex also have good cause to be grateful for this competition. Like Leicestershire, it brought them the first trophy in their history, in 1979, two months before their first championship success. So, for reasons of tradition (fairly recent tradition, granted) and cricket, the uncommitted could not really have asked for a better final.

That there will be plenty of the uncommitted at Lord's is not in doubt. Leicestershire, who are feebly supported, have sold only 2,800 tickets (1,700 short of a competing club's entitlement), compared with the 5,000 that Essex have accounted for. There are times when one wonders whether the game means anything to folk in that city.

As holders of the NatWest Trophy, victors against Warwickshire by nine wickets last September, this Essex team is more familiar with Lord's. The last time Leicestershire reached a Lord's final, under the leadership of Nigel Briers in 1992, they froze and Northamptonshire ran off with the NatWest Trophy.

In Darren Maddy they have the batsman of the competition this year. He has made 624 runs, a record, and his rip-roaring hundred in the semi-final enabled Leicestershire to turf out Surrey, the winners last year. Maddy has ground to make up after his selection for England's one-day side in the Texaco Trophy internationals and subsequent demotion. Not that making runs today will take him any closer to the Test team. Thankfully, that sort of nonsense is a thing of the past.

Each side must do without an important player. Darren Robinson, the Essex opening batsman, has broken a finger and David Millns, the Leicestershire fast bowler, has an ear infection. But there are still many other players who can leave their mark.

In particular, Stuart Law is waiting to shine. Essex's Australian all-rounder is one of the most free-scoring batsmen in the game when he gets going and his 80 not out in the NatWest final last year was a feast of strokeplay.

Essex also have Ronnie Irani, an all-rounder who consistently offers his team more than other players who get mentioned in connection with England. As a batsman he is capable of making hundreds. As a bowler he takes bundles of three wickets, or four, and brings urgency to any game in which he is involved.

On the other side is another all-rounder, who has flattered to deceive since he emerged as a cricketer of promise 11 years ago. Chris Lewis, a winner with Surrey last year, will lead Leicestershire today, in the continued absence of Jimmy Whitaker, and one trusts that his behaviour will be more decorous than it was on this stage 12 months ago.

Lewis returned to Grace Road at the start of this season, after a chequered career that began there, and continued along a bumpy road that took in the Oval by way of Trent Bridge. He claims to have settled at long last, although that has to be taken largely on trust. Figures alone do not make his case.

He is certainly playing in a good side, which has strength in batting and bowling, and is competitive in both the limited overs game and the championship. If Leicestershire were to win today, they could move into the second half of the season with every hope of picking up at least one more trophy.

Phil Simmons, their popular Trinidadian, will be another key man today, capable of winning a match with bat and ball and a superb fielder to boot.

On paper Leicestershire have the greater depth in batting, but no match was ever won on paper, and Essex, whose one-day form this season runs counter to their miserable showing in the championship, will be primed.

To be truthful, the competition's departure from the domestic programme will not be greatly mourned, despite the loyalty and generosity of the sponsor. It was only ever the bastard child of a superior game, the 60-over competition, which has always had a bigger profile and stimulates better cricket.

Still, it's a farewell and, even if MCC members are unlikely to wave it a tearful goodbye with their hankies, the game counts for something.



Lewis: acting captain



Stuart Law: strokemaker

ROUTES TO THE FINAL

LEICESTERSHIRE

ZONAL MATCHES: May 1: v Lancashire at Leicester. Leics 283-2 (D L Maddy 136, B F Smith 90); Lancs 287-8 (J P Crawley 88) Lancs won by two wickets. May 2: v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. Notts 195-8; Leics 198-2 (J J Sutcliffe 105*) Leics won by eight wickets. May 4: v Warwickshire at Leicester. Warwicks 263-6 (D R Brown 60, T L Penney 57*); Leics 269-7 (P V Simmons 89, I J Sutcliffe 50). Leics won by three wickets. May 6: v Northamptonshire at Northampton. Northants 198-9 (A L Penberthy 62). Leics 199-2 (D L Maddy 89, I J Sutcliffe 56). Leics won by eight wickets. May 8: v Minor Counties at Leicester. Leics 382-6 (D L Maddy 151, C C Lewis 55*); Minor Counties 126 (V J Wells 6-25). Leics won by 256 runs. QUARTER-FINAL: May 27: v Kent at Leicester. Kent 158 (C L Hooper 60; P V Simmons 5-33). Leics 159-2 (D L Maddy 93*) Leics won by eight wickets

SEMI-FINAL: June 9: v Surrey at Leicester. Leics 311-4 (D L Maddy 120*, B F Smith 89); Surrey 291-8 (A J Hollioake 86, B C Hollioake 63; C C Lewis 4-40) Leics won by 20 runs

PROBABLE TEAM

C C Lewis (captain), V J Wells, D L Maddy, I J Sutcliffe, B F Smith, P V Simmons, Aftab Habib, P A Nixon, A D Mullally, M T Brimson, J M Dakin.

Umpires: R Julian and M J Kitchen. Third umpire: J C Balderstone.

Television: Live coverage: Sky Sports 1, from 10.30am. Highlights: BBC2, from 8pm.

Radio: BBC Radio 4 (Long Wave only), from 11am

ESSEX

ZONAL MATCHES: April 29: v Glamorgan at Cardiff. No result. May 2: v Sussex at Hove. Sussex 282-3 (A Greenfield 93*, M G Bevan 87). Essex 285-3 (D D J Robinson 137*, N Hussain 62). Essex won by seven wickets. May 4: v Ireland at Chelmsford. Essex 359-6 (D D J Robinson 114, N Hussain 71, R C Irani 69); Ireland 188. Essex won by 171 runs. May 7: v Middlesex at Chelmsford. Essex 233-9 (N Hussain 101; A G J Fraser 4-45); Middlesex 234-6. Middlesex won by four wickets

QUARTER-FINAL: May 27: v Middlesex at Lord's. Essex 232-9 (S D Peters 58*); Middlesex 224-7 (A P Cowan 5-28) Essex won by eight runs.

SEMI-FINAL: June 9: v Yorkshire at Headingley. Essex 258-7 (N Hussain 78); Yorkshire 163 (A P Grayson 3-32). Essex won by 95 runs

PROBABLE TEAM

P J Prichard (captain), S G Law, N Hussain, R C Irani, S D Peters, A P Grayson, D R Law, R J Rollins, M C Ilott, A P Cowan, P M Such.

Umpires: R Julian and M J Kitchen. Third umpire: J C Balderstone.

Television: Live coverage: Sky Sports 1, from 10.30am. Highlights: BBC2, from 8pm.

Radio: BBC Radio 4 (Long Wave only), from 11am

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT



Maddy adds to his record Benson and Hedges Cup run-aggregate for a season during the quarter-final against Kent

Maddy sets own standards

Richard Hobson examines the ups and downs of a man who seemed destined for a long run in the Test team

The story of Darren Maddy has altered unpredictably since Leicestershire opened their Benson and Hedges Cup campaign on the first day of May. A century against Lancashire, albeit in a losing cause, confirmed Maddy as a young man on the rise, a batsman of style and substance with a prolific A tour behind him progressing seamlessly towards a Test-match debut.

England called earlier than expected, drafting Maddy into the squad for the Texaco Trophy series against South Africa. While he failed, scoring a single in his only innings, many expected him to feature in the first Test at Edgbaston. Instead, the selectors turned to the left-handedness of Mark Butcher, then to Steve James and then to Nick Knight.

That England should employ different opening partners for Michael Atherton in each Test is as bizarre as it is unfortunate. That Maddy should not be among the annointed trio would have seemed unthinkable six weeks ago and the irony is that Maddy arrives at Lord's this morning burdened with greater expectation from the Leicestershire public than ever.

Despite a run of failures in the first-class game, Maddy has flourished in the 50-overs competition. He has won the Gold Award five times in seven games and his aggregate of 624 runs is the record for a season. In contrast, he scored just 162 runs from his first 11 Britannic Assurance county championship innings before doubling that total against Durham nine days ago.

"It is strange, because I have always been looked at as a four-day rather than a one-day player," Maddy said. "The weather has made it very stop-start. In the championship, an opener has to be reserved and disciplined to bat all day, but I have not once turned up at a ground this season and been confident of playing for the full day. Every time I have gone out to bat, it has felt like a new season."

In his self-effacement, Maddy, 24, prompts comparisons to James, the Glamorgan batsman discarded after a single game at Lord's. Neither is likely to talk his way into international cricket, although Maddy said he felt at ease during the one-day internationals.

"People might think I have suffered because of the talk of playing for England," he said. "I have seen it happen to other players and it must be easy to think that from outside. But I set myself very high standards, anyway, in terms of runs and fitness, so there has always been that pressure from within."

Maddy unleashed his frustration in the gym and confined any inner worries to a small circle of family and his girlfriend, a trainee solicitor. He still lives with his parents in Thurmaston — six successive winters abroad have made house-buying impossible — and names William, his father, himself trying to break into the Leicestershire over-50s side in between running a sock company, as his mentor.

With a disarming honesty, Maddy said: "At the time of the first Test, my top score in the championship was 24 not out. I would have been disappointed in the selectors if they had picked me on that record. It is difficult to have continuity when results are not going well, but if they stick with Knight or Butcher, eventually you will see the best of them.

"I would rather go in on the back of my performances for Leicestershire than because people are calling for changes because of results. I want to be there when I have scored 1,500 runs and eight hundreds, so they cannot afford not to pick me. I hope the innings against Durham will be a start, but I think it will take more than that."

Maddy is not the most gifted batsman in the county, let alone the country, but he might be the most determined. It is revealing that five of those winters have been spent in South Africa, no place for the fragile of mind, and that he has forged a strong relationship with Graham Gooch, a selector and kindred spirit.

Maddy still owns a video recording of the last time Leicestershire won the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1985. Even at 11, he was telling anybody who would listen that he wanted to play cricket professionally, but he had to wait until last season before he played at Lord's for the first time. He scored 103 against Middlesex in the championship and 82 in the Axa League. He will not be fazed today.

Rain puts paid to Ireland's hopes

FROM KARL JOHNSTON IN DOWNPATRICK

DOWNPATRICK (Ireland won toss): Match abandoned

HANSIE CRONJE, Ireland's overseas player in the Benson and Hedges Cup last year, remarked yesterday that the real future of the game in the country probably lies in indoor cricket. Last month, the Ireland players were obliged to kick their heels as three successive one-day matches against Bangladesh were rained off. Yesterday, their joust against the South Africans at Downpatrick had to be abandoned after a bright start.

As the local population braced itself for a holiday weekend of controversial Orange Order marches, yesterday's match was a tribute to the resilience and spirit of the members of the host club, whose premises were burnt down last month. Yesterday, Portakabins, marquees and tents did the business and Cronje duly paid tribute to the industrious members. "There was never any doubt that we would come to honour this fixture", he said.

In the morning, early wickets by Paul McCrum and Gordon Cooke had removed Cronje and Daryll Cullinan with only four runs on the board. Brian McMillan departed with only 25 runs added, and, if Angus Dunlop, the Ireland captain, had not spilt the catch at deep mid-off that would have dismissed Jonty Rhodes, South Africa would have lost four wickets for a mere 58.

At 70 for four, though, Ireland were still in the hunt, but the good news ended there. Rhodes started the fightback with 39, but the real architects of Ireland's discomfiture were Mark Boucher, who contributed 79, and Shaun Pollock, who ended the innings unbeaten on 116.

The big crowd got good value for their money, despite the rain. But the real message was the presence of the cricketers from the new South Africa: living proof that reconciliation is the real, and only, way forward.

SOUTH AFRICANS

*W J Cronje c Rutherford b McCrum	2
B M McMillan c Smyth b Cooke	15
D J Cullinan b McCrum	0
J N Rhodes c and b Cooke	39
S M Pollock not out	116
†M V Boucher st Rutherford b Mollins	79
P L Symcox c Dunlop b Heasley	15
S Elworthy c Dunlop b Cooke	16
M Haywood c Joyce b Cooke	0
P R Adams run out	17
M Ntini not out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 17, nb 8)	34
Total (9 wkts)	333

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-4, 3-29, 4-71, 5-248, 6-268, 7-298, 8-299, 9-328.

BOWLING: McCrum 9-0-75-2; Cooke 10-1-60-4; Heasley 10-0-63-1; McCallan 10-0-49-0; Mollins 10-0-70-1; Gillespie 1-0-7-0

IRELAND

W K McCallan c McMillan b Haywood	17
E C Joyce run out	4
S G Smyth not out	19
P G Gillespie not out	0
Extras (w 12, nb 20)	32
Total (2 wkts)	72

*A R Dunlop, N Karson, D Heasley, †A T Rutherford, G Cooke, E McCrum and G Mollins did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-71

BOWLING: Pollock 6-1-14-0, Elworthy 5-0-22-0; Haywood 3-0-22-1; Ntini 2 3-0-14-0

Umpires: P O'Hara and P Henry.

ROWING

Fours back on winning track

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

GREAT BRITAIN'S world champion coxless four of James Cracknell, Steve Redgrave, Tim Foster and Matthew Pinsent seemed back on course, both physically and mentally, in Lucerne yesterday.

They had to finish in the top three of their heat to progress to today's semi-final and showed no strain in finishing first, ahead of Norway, Romania and Australia won the other heats but were, encouragingly for Britain, slower to the 1,500 metre mark.

Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop maintained their unbeaten record in the women's coxless pairs. The British pair were fourth at 500m but then moved through, finally passing Denmark in the last ten strokes to book a direct passage to the final tomorrow.

Mike Spracklen, the coach, may well urge the pair to go faster earlier tomorrow since the Canadians, appearing for the first time this season and qualifying in the other heat, were six seconds faster to 1,500m, although the times at the finish were identical, and neither eased up.

The young coxless pair of Steve Williams and Fred Scarlett and Guin Batten in the women's sculls both avoided extra strain with semi-final qualifying first places. Batten clearly enjoyed the calm Rotsee Lake in comparison to the Thames at Henley and clocked a faster time than Gina Douglas, of Australia, who beat her at the Royal Regatta.

A number of British boats, including Greg Searle in the men's sculls, came through to their semi-finals after surviving repechages yesterday. In an incredibly strong field which includes five former world champions, four of them — together with Searle — experienced repechages. Searle won his despite carrying an injury, a broken toe sustained on the penalty machine at Heathrow Airport on the journey over.

"It was a bit sore," he said after qualifying. The Britain men's eight race their repechage today after finishing an encouragingly close second in their heat to Germany, the Henley winners.

Other qualifiers included Tracy Langlands and Jane Hall and Tim Male and Matthew Beechey in the women's and men's lightweight double sculls respectively, and the quadruple sculliers Tom Gale, Jim Walker, Jonny Searle and Ian Watson who scraped home in third place to face a semi-final today.

SWIMMING: THREE BRITISH RECORDS BROKEN AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rolph fastest off the blocks

BY CRAIG LORD

SUSAN ROLPH, basking in a bodysuit and the glory of having defeated the Olympic champion Jenny Thompson, last month, yesterday declared herself "the one to beat from now on" after equalling the Commonwealth record in the 100 metres freestyle at the ASA national championships and Commonwealth Games trials in Sheffield.

On an encouraging day for English swimming, with British records also falling to Helen Don-Duncan and James Hickman, Rolph stole the show in retaining her national title in 55.79sec. As if the figure-hugging suit were not enough to catch the eye, Rolph, 20, left the starting blocks as if her life depended on it. The Newcastle sprinter had the edge from the outset on Karen Pickering, who finished runner-up in 56.23sec, with the 200 metres champion, Claire Huddart, third. Pickering will defend her Commonwealth title in Malaysia, with only Rolph faster going into the Games.

Rolph was adamant that the suit played a great part in the latest in a series of progressions.

"From now on, I'm going to be the one to beat. I beat Jenny Thompson (of the US) and I just keep chipping away at the rest." The message to her Australian rivals was blunt: "Try your hardest, but you won't get anywhere."

Meanwhile, Hickman was was more in need of competition than a Teflon coating on his trunks. The world short-course butterfly champion romped away from the pack in the 400 metres medley, breaking his own British 400 metre medley record by 0.70sec, his 4min 21.54sec splitting the two Australians, Zane King and Trent Steed, at the top of the Commonwealth rankings.

Another to float to the top of the rankings was Helen Don-Duncan, 17, of Ashton Central with a British record of 2min 13.70sec in the 200 metres backstroke, the same time as Meredith Smith, of Australia.

Mark Foster and Adam Ruckwood ensured that they will defend their Commonwealth titles in Kuala Lumpur. Foster was well off his best pace in the 50 metres freestyle, the only threat to the 23.01sec he recorded in defending his ASA title was the 23.15sec from Sion Brinn, his team-mate at University of Bath who until last year competed for Jamaica.

England has appealed to the Commonwealth Games Council for Brinn to be allowed to race for England in Malaysia. However, a decision will not be made until after the trials end on Sunday. Brinn could be added to the team at a later date. Ruckwood, of Birmingham, made light work of retaining his national 200 metres backstroke title and will defend his Commonwealth crown in September.

Graeme Smith, already selected for Scotland, produced one of the finest swims of the day: 15min 08.08sec to retain his 1,500 metre ASA title and provide confirmation that Dave Calleja's charge at Stockport is well on the road to returning to the form that helped him to win the Olympic bronze medal in 1996.

BEN DUFFY



Ruckwood will defend his Commonwealth Games title in Kuala Lumpur

SAILING

Fleet swells for leading regatta

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THIS weekend sees the start of the second-biggest regatta in the British Isles, with more than 600 boats taking part in Ford Cork Week at Crosshaven in an expanded format that includes several national and European championships and racing for 17 classes, on the Atlantic and inside Cork harbour.

The biggest boats in Class 0 will be fighting it out for the Ford Puma Cup, which is also being styled by the organisers as the unofficial CHS world championships. Top contenders in the 23-strong class include Philip Tolhurst's Farr 40, *Warlord V*, Peter Vroon's *Tonnere de Sark* and Nigel Bramwell's new Sydney 41, *Hawk*.

The event, which is biennial, is again including the Sigma 33 national championships, with another huge fleet making the trek across the Irish Sea from the South Coast and the Clyde. There will be up to 80 boats sailing with Ian Nicholson's *St Joan*, which is trying to defend the title she won at Cork in 1996.

Some of the most competitive racing will be in the Cork Harbour 1720 sportsboat fleet. More than 60 will be racing and, like the Class 0 boats and the mixed sportsboat class, the rules allow professional sailors on each boat.

Meanwhile, Chris Law, Britain's top match-racing helmsman who has now moved up to No2 in the world rankings after a string of recent successes, yesterday underlined his readiness to work with Lawrie Smith if the Spirit of Britain campaign sends a team to the 2000 America's Cup in Auckland.

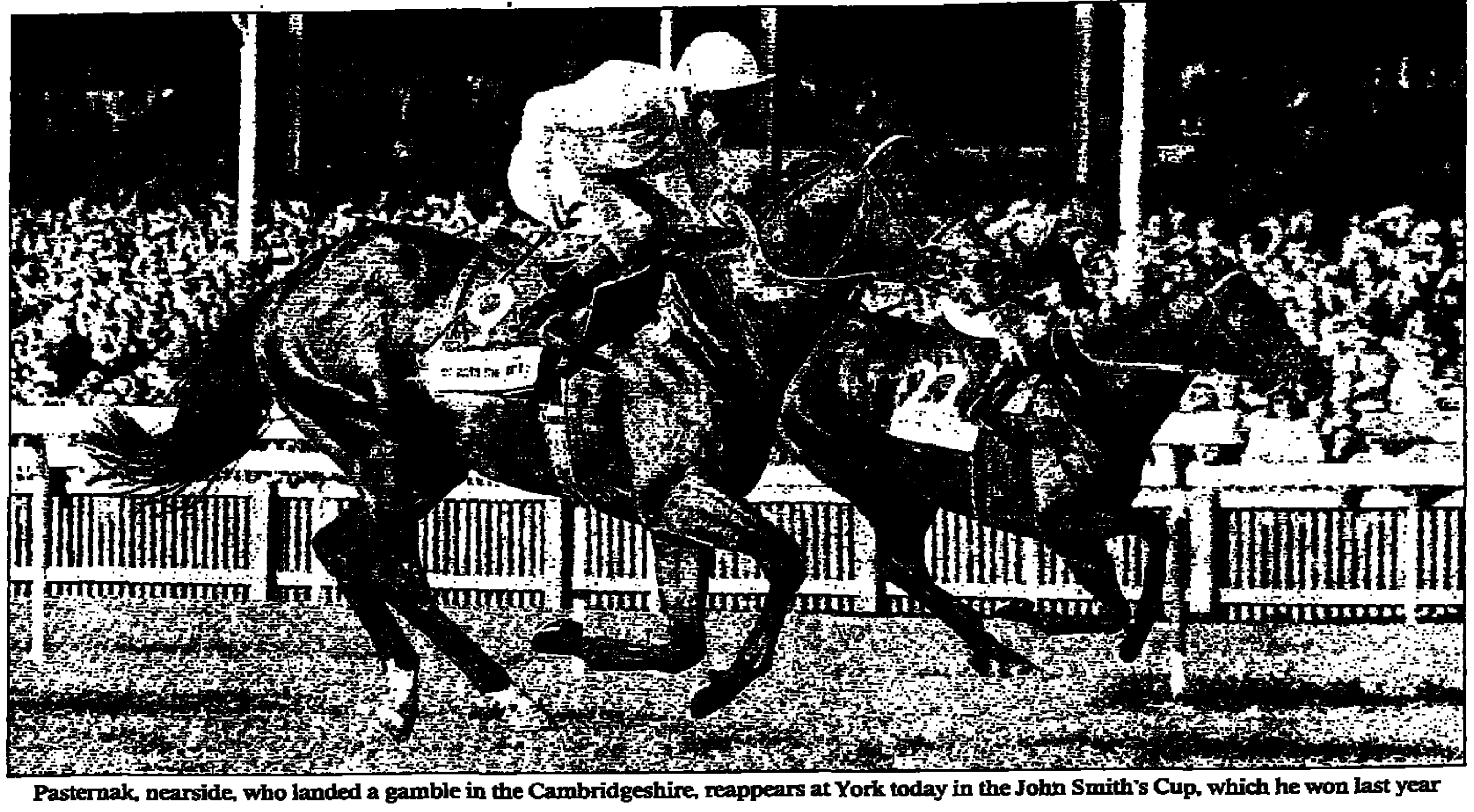
Law, whose Nautica Match Racing Team won the Lymington Cup and is now led in the rankings only by Peter Gilmour, of Australia, said he and Smith had had discussions and he was hopeful they could work together using the best of their respective crews. "Lawrie is the sailing director of the only British challenge," Law said. "I am keen to support him in that role and if he appoints himself as skipper that's fine by me. My role is helmsman, not just a bus driver. I will want a say in who I sail with and a direct link with the technology so that I can understand the boat'S capability. If Lawrie and I can work together, that'll be pretty exciting," he added.

There has still been no announcement from the Spirit of Britain campaign about whether it will send a boat or boats to Auckland amid what appear to have been continuing difficulties over raising commercial sponsorship.

RACING: WARD-OWNED CONTENDER CAN COLLECT VALUABLE JOHN SMITH'S CUP AT YORK

Distinctive Dance to step out in style

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent



MARTIN LYNCH

Pasternak, nearside, who landed a gamble in the Cambridgeshire, reappears at York today in the John Smith's Cup, which he won last year

THE financial backing racing receives from Tripleprint, *Bonusprint* and Doubleprint makes George Ward one of the sport's biggest sponsors but, at York this afternoon, the head of Grunwick will be gamekeeper turned poacher as he attempts to win a sizeable chunk of the prize-money put up by John Smith's brewery.

Before the Channel 4 cameras come on air, the Lady Herries-trained **Distant Moon** looks to have a good chance in the Beamish Red Conditions Stakes after a winning debut at Sandown, when the Distant Relative colt came from last to first in a fast-run race.

However, the Ward-owned runner which interests me most runs in the John Smith's Cup (4.15), the £110,000-added feature race of the day, and is available at double-figure odds this morning. Distinctive Dance, trained by Lord Huntingdon, has raced only four times but warrants the closest inspection.

On his debut at Epsom last September, the American-bred colt finished a length and a half behind the race-fit Name Of Love, who received 5lb and went on to win the listed Oh So Sharp Stakes and group three Rockfel Stakes.

He hacked up by 18 lengths at Lingfield on his seasonal reappearance in March before running most creditably in the Britannia Handicap, a race which has worked out particularly well. Although the going was softer than ideal at Royal Ascot, he was noted staying on steadily, without having a particularly hard race, and finished only five lengths behind Plan-B.

The time and form recorded over that straight mile entitles *him to* go close today, but there are strong grounds for believing he can improve considerably given that he is unexposed and certain to appreciate today's faster going. His relaxed style of racing suggests the extra quarter-mile will pose no problems, although he is speedily bred. The booking of the in-form Pat Eddery, who will be riding close to his lowest weight, is a bonus.

Although being drawn 16 would not normally be ideal, it may prove an advantage today as Refuse To Lose and Anak-Ku, confirmed front-runners, are drawn even wider — which could pose problems for horses drawn near the inner rail.

Pasternak, who won this race last year, has been laid out for a repeat performance by Sir Mark Prescott and has to be feared, along with the Sir Michael Stoute-trained Muhib. The latter easily won a maiden at Goodwood, having previously run well behind Hitman, the impressive winner of a Newmarket handicap on Wednesday. But, at the available odds — 18-1 with Corals — **Distinctive Dance** is a value bet.

In the Kronenbourg 1664 Handicap (3.10), Anstand will have his supporters now that he returns to seven furlongs. He stayed on over six earlier this week at Ripon, where he appeared ill at ease on the undulating track.

Bollin Terry ran encouragingly at Chester last time but might prefer further and **Saint Express** could be a value selection. Well handicapped on most of his form last year, he has ground conditions in his favour for the first time this year.

Sheer Danzig recorded a cracking effort when beaten less than two lengths by Yavana's Pace over an inadequate trip at Sandown. Robert Armstrong's runner should defy top weight in the Foster's Silver Cup (3.40) now that he returns to a suitable distance, while Kieren Fallon can help **Present Chance** lose his maiden tag in the Beck's Bier Handicap (4.45).

YORK

THUNDERER

2.00 Poles Apart
2.35 Mixterthetrixster
3.10 Almuhimm
3.40 MITHAK (nap)
4.15 Pasternak
4.45 Night Flight
5.15 Perugino Bay

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.10 **ALMUHIMM.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 RIDAIYMA (nap). 4.15 Muhib. 4.45 Stylish Ways.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 SOUTH HIENDLEY RECREATION CLUB MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £6,409: 6f) (17 runners)

101 (14) 0005 BODFARI SIGNET 50 (Bodfari Stud Ltd) M W Easterby 9-0 — T Lucas 54
102 (15) COLONEL MUSTARD (Mrs J Hopper) J Fanshawe 9-0 — D Harrison –
103 (2) 60 DURHAM DANDY 49 (C Stevens) T Easterby 9-0 — L Charnock 58
104 (3) 4 FOURTH TIME LUCKY 21 (M Foxton) B Murray 9-0 — F Lynch 43
105 (12) GREEN GINGER (S Garratt) A Streeter 9-0 — J Weaver –
106 (17) KINLAND (B Hathaway) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 — T Sprake –
107 (9) MILL END VENTURE (W Allgood) M W Easterby 9-0 — S Finnamore (7) –
108 (13) 5 PLURALIST 19 (Pluralist Partnership) W Jarvis 9-0 — J Reid 55
109 (1) POLES APART (Flint Fairyhouse Partnership) M Tompkins 9-0 — A Nicholls (7) –
110 (5) STORMIN (V) (Mrs J Egan) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 — R Lappin –
111 (7) 6 TOP ACT 58 (Top Twenty Partnership) G Oldroyd 9-0 — G Parkin 51
112 (6) TUNNEL BRIDGE (J Stephenson) K Ryan 9-0 — J Carroll –
113 (16) 223 BOLLIN RITA 36 (Lady Westbrook) T Easterby 8-9 — K Fallon [illegible]
114 (11) 50023 CALL ME LUCKY 5 (BF) (Northgate Bronze) M Brittain 8-9 — G Carter 73
115 (10) 32 HIGHLY FANCIED 7 (Mrs A Bell) Miss L Perratt 8-9 — L Dettori 66
116 (4) 36 LADY NAIRN 71 (M Grubb) J J Quinn 8-9 — C Lowther 57
117 (8) 50 SEA MINSTREL 8 (P Clifton) M Sowersby 8-9 — R Winston (5) 43

BETTING: 4-1 Bollin Rita, 11-2 Highly Fancied, 6-1 Pluralist, 7-1 Top Act, 8-1 Kinland, 10-1 others.

1997: MERLIN'S RING 9-0 L Dettori (11-8 fav) I Balding 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Bodfari Signet 6¾l 5th of 7 to Five Ways Flyer in selling stakes at Haydock (5f, good). Durham Dandy 18l 11th of 14 to Be The Chief in maiden at Doncaster (6f, good). Fourth Time Lucky 3¾l 4th of 7 to Ringside Jack in maiden at Redcar (5f, good to soft). Pluralist 4½l 5th of 24 to Grey Princess in maiden at Windsor (6f, good to firm). Top Act 8¾l 6th of 7 to Atlantic Destiny in maiden at York (6f, good). Bollin Rita 2½l 3rd of 10 to Eltawaasul in maiden at Haydock (6f, good). Call Me Lucky 5¾l 3rd of 9 to Aegean Flame in maiden at Ripon (5f, good). Highly Fancied 2l 2nd of 7 to Miss Fit in novice at Carlisle (5f 207yd, good to firm).

BOLLIN RITA should win this if reproducing her form

2.35 BEAMISH RED CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £6,596: 6f 214yd) (4 runners)

201 (2) 1 DISTANT MOON 29 (D,S) (G Ward) Lady Herries 9-0 — J Reid 106
202 (1) 61 GLANWYDDEN 7 (D,G) (Lord Mostyn) J Berry 9-0 — C Lowther 85
203 (4) 1 MIXSTERTHETRIXSTER 16 (D,G) (M Burke's 5th S'ment) T Easterby 9-0 — K Fallon [illegible]
204 (3) 1 TAYIL 14 (D,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0 — R Hills 98

BETTING: 6-4 Mixsterthetrixster, 5-2 Tayil, 11-4 Distant Moon, 6-1 Glanwydden.

1997: TRACKING 9-0 K Fallon (4-6 fav) H Cecil 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Distant Moon beat Bombard ¾l in 7-runner maiden stakes at Sandown (7f 16yd, good to soft). Glanwydden beat Bollin Roberta 4l in 6-runner novice stakes at Beverley (7f 100yd, good). Mixsterthetrixster beat Turtle Valley 3½l in 7-runner maiden stakes at Newcastle (7f, good). Tayil beat Meneer short head in 11-runner maiden stakes at Newmarket (7f, good).

MIXTERTHETRIXSTER looked a smashing prospect at Newcastle

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Prescott	4	15	26.7	L Dettori	43	196	21.9
H Cecil	20	85	23.5	G Duffield	7	47	14.9
M Stoute	26	127	20.5	T Sprake	3	21	14.3
Lord Huntingdon	5	29	17.2	J Reid	21	151	13.9
L Cumani	13	78	16.7	Pat Eddery	26	188	13.8

3.10 KRONENBOURG 1664 HANDICAP (£7,570: 6f 214yd) (10 runners) — C4

301 (8) /033000 SILCA BLANKA 13 (D,F,G,S) (G Duckhaven Stud) A Newcombe 6-10-0 — J Reid 100
302 (2) 00-0520 ALMUHIMM 38 (D,F) (M Burke's 5th S'ment) M W Easterby 6-9-12 — Pat Eddery [illegible]
303 (3) 2001-00 SAINT EXPRESS 10 (C,D,F) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-7 — A Culhane 97
304 (4) 3801030 GREY KINGDOM 9 (C,D,F,G,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 7-9-6 — G Carter 101
305 (7) 301-003 BOLLIN TERRY 38 (F) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 4-9-3 — K Fallon 96
306 (1) 6-05103 ANSTAND 5 (BF,G) (B Hathaway) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-13 — D Harrison 100
307 (6) 3000-00 STYLE DANCER 9 (F) (Mrs C Hodgetts) R Whitaker 4-8-13 — L Dettori 89
308 (5) 405-100 RIOJA 28 (S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 3-8-11 — T Lucas 87
309 (9) 4522104 TROJAN HERO 9 (D,F,G) (C Buckley) Mrs M Reveley 7-8-6 — L Charnock 87
310 (10) 042-006 SURPRISED 10 (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-4 — R Lappin 85

BETTING: 5-2 Anstand, 9-2 Bollin Terry, 11-2 Surprised, 8-1 Almuhimm, Grey Kingdom, 10-1 Saint Express, Trojan Hero, 12-1 others.

1997: STACKATTACK 4-8-7 F Lynch (9-2 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 16 ran

FORM FOCUS Silca Blanka 7¾l 13th to Pantar in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good to firm). Saint Express 6¼l 7th to Cybertechnology in handicap at Redcar (7f, good to soft). Grey Kingdom 4¼l 9th to Prince Dome in handicap at Haydock (6f, good to soft) with Style Dancer (4lb better off) 8l 14th. Bollin Terry 7½l 3rd to Nomore Mr Niceguy in handicap at Chester (7f, good) with Almuhimm (5lb worse off) 20l 10th. Anstand ¾l 3rd to Bow Peep in handicap at Ripon (6f, good). Rioja 19l 18th to Friar Tuck in handicap at York (6f, good to soft). Trojan Hero 4l 4th to Daryabad in stakes at Catterick (7f, good). Surprised 6½l 6th to Ray Of Sunshine in handicap at Redcar (6f, good to soft).

ANSTAND has a progressive profile and clocked a decent time at Ripon

3.40 FOSTER'S SILVER CUP RATED HANDICAP (Listed race: £15,816: 1m 5f 194yd) (8 runners) — C4

401 (2) 4250-00 SHEER DANZIG 8 (C,F,G) (R Arculli) R Armstrong 6-9-7 — R Hills 118
402 (5) 2/13-22 STREET GENERAL 28 (G) (L Gaucci) H Cecil 4-9-6 — K Fallon 180
403 (1) 14-4400 SAUSALITO BAY 14 (CD,F,G,S) (J Smith) I Balding 4-8-4 — S Whitworth 116
404 (8) 11810-2 RIDAIYMA 20 (F,G) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 4-9-4 — J Reid 118
405 (6) 312-025 DREAM OF NURMI 24 (C,G) (C Brasher) A Stewart 4-9-0 — L Dettori 119
406 (3) 4013-30 BENATOM 35 (CD,F,G) (Lordship Stud) D Elsworth 5-8-13 — Pat Eddery 108
407 (4) 6202-56 MITHAK 14 (F) (Platinum Syndicate Limited) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-7 — D Harrison [illegible]
408 (7) 16-2450 GEORGIA VENTURE 14 (D,F,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 4-8-7 — R Ffrench 108

Long handicap: Mithak 8-3, Georgia Venture 8-2.

BETTING: 5-2 Sheer Danzig, 11-4 Ridaiyma, 7-2 Dream Of Nurmi, 8-1 Sheer Danzig, Mithak, 12-1 Benatom, 16-1 Sausalito Bay, 20-1 Georgia Venture.

1997: BENATOM 4-8-7 K Fallon (4-1) H Cecil 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Sheer Danzig 1¾l 7th of 20 to Yavana's Pace in handicap at Sandown (1m 2f, good). Street General 1½l 2nd to Redbridge in stakes at Leicester (1m 4f, soft). Ridaiyma sh hd 2nd to Ellenica in group III at San Siro (1m 4f, good to firm). Dream Of Nurmi 12l 5th to Greek Palace in handicap at Ascot (1m 4l, good to soft) with Sausalito Bay (4lb better off) 21l 12th. Benatom 20l 11th to Haji in handicap at Epsom (1m 4f, good). Mithak 4¼l 6th to Cyrian in handicap at Newcastle (2m 19yd, soft) with Sausalito Bay (6lb better off) 11l 14th and Georgia Venture (levels) 34l 19th.

MITHAK will be happier on this faster surface and is well treated

4.15 39TH JOHN SMITH'S CUP (Handicap: £70,750: 1m 2f 85yd) (20 runners) — C4

501 (9) -431500 PRINCE OF DENIAL 8 (CD,F,G,S) (J Gullen) D Arbuthnot 4-9-10 — S Whitworth 112
502 (4) 311/11- PASTERNAK 280 (CD,F,G,S) (G Rock) M Prescott 5-9-10 — G Duffield [illegible]
503 (15) 0350-05 WILCUMA 7 (CD,F,G,S) (T Warner) P Makin 7-9-5 — J Carroll 106
504 (14) 00-3630 VAGABOND CHANTEUSE 21 (G) (W Green) T Etherington 4-9-5 — A Culhane 97
505 (17) 4221421 REFUSE TO LOSE 24 (G,S) (J Smith) J Eustace 4-9-5 — J Tate 111
506 (5) 1056-20 SONG OF FREEDOM 35 (D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-3 — L Dettori 110
507 (3) 13-45 CARDIGAN BAY 21 (S) (E Bedell) Lady Herries 4-9-1 — K Fallon 87
508 (20) 12120-1 ANAK-KU 32 (D,F,G,S) (A Shah) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-12 — J Weaver 109
509 (13) 14-2313 DOWER HOUSE 13 (D,F,G) (Lord H De Walden) W Jarvis 3-8-12 — J Reid 112
510 (10) 240-031 RAPIER 28 (C,F,S) (Mrs A Kane) M Hammond 4-8-12 — G Carter 106
511 (6) 34-21 MUHIB 22 (G) (H al-Maktoum) Sir M Stoute 3-8-12 — R Hills 99+
512 (1) 10-6332 CAPTAIN SCOTT 19 (D,F) (White State Partnership) J Glover 4-8-7 — P Robinson 116
513 (16) 24-10 DISTINCTIVE DANCE 25 (G Ward) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-5 — Pat Eddery 103
514 (8) 3210-12 KARAKIA 13 (D,F,S) (Mrs L Moretti) S Woods 4-8-3 — R Ffrench 100
515 (12) 5-43112 EMERALD HEIGHTS 23 (G) (P & N Hodgson) J Fanshawe 3-8-3 — D Harrison 117
516 (7) 64-331 PORTO FORICOS 51 (F) (Marcos Family) H Cecil 3-8-3 — J Quinn 108
517 (19) 00-2600 SKY DOME 15 (F,S) (Miss D Merson) M Tompkins 5-8-2 — A Nicholls (7) 100
518 (2) 44d2105 PHILISTAR 13 (D,F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 5-8-2 — R Winston (5) 101
519 (18) -051064 MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 8 (CD,F,G) (E Incisa) E Incisa 7-7-13 — Kim Tinkler 98
520 (11) 1031121 MAZEED 7 (V,D,F,G) (Mrs L Windsor) P Evans 5-7-10 — L Charnock 90

Long handicap: Refuse To Lose 8-11, Muhib 8-7, Mazeed 7-8

BETTING: 3-1 Pasternak, 5-1 Emerald Heights, 8-1 Porto Foricos, 10-1 Muhib, 12-1 Karakia, 14-1 Wilcuma, Refuse To Lose, Song Of Freedom, Cardigan Bay, Dower House, Captain Scott, 16-1 others.

1997: PASTERNAK 4-8-3 G Duffield (15-2) M Prescott 21 ran

FORM FOCUS *Pasternak beat Radiomental ¾l in handicap at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm) with Philistar (7lb better off) 14l 23rd and Prince Of Denial (7lb worse off) 18l 27th.* Wilcuma 3¾l 5th of 13 to For Your Eyes Only in handicap at Sandown (1m 14yd, good to soft). Refuse To Lose beat Fly To The Stars 1¾l in 32-runner handicap at Ascot (1m, good to soft). Song Of Freedom 7¾l 8th of 14 to Shadoof in handicap at Epsom (1m 2f 18yd, good). Cardigan Bay 2¾l 5th of 16 to Another Time in handicap at Ascot (1m 2f, good) with Prince Of Denial (levels) 7¾l 10th, Wilcuma (levels) 16l 13th and Vagabond Chanteuse (levels) 30l last. Anak-ku beat Indian Missile ¾l in 7-runner stakes at Salisbury (1m 1f 198yd, good to soft). Rapier beat Dispol Diamond 1¾l in 17-runner handicap at York (1m 205yd, good to soft) with Philistar (6lb better off) 5¾l 9th and Mcgillycuddy Reeks (6lb better off) 17l 13th. Muhib beat Just In Time 3l in 10-runner maiden stakes at Goodwood (1m 1f, good). Captain Scott neck 2nd of 13 to Premier Generation in handicap at Nottingham (1m 1f 213yd, good). Distinctive Dance 5¼l 11th of 31 to Plan-B in handicap at Ascot (1m, good to soft). Karakia 2¼l 2nd of 10 to Labeq in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good) with Dower House (1lb worse off) 3¼l 3rd. Emerald Heights ¾l 2nd of 17 to Double Classic in handicap at Ascot (1m 4l, soft). Porto Foricos beat Peradventure ½l in 6-runner maiden stakes at Goodwood (1m 1f, good to firm). Mazeed beat Lancer 1l in 8-runner amateur handicap at Beverley (1m 1f 207yd, good).

MUHIB was second to Hitman at Yarmouth and that looks smart form now

4.45 BECK'S BIER HANDICAP (£10,194: 6f) (19 runners) — C4

601 (4) 4-04004 VENTURE CAPITALIST 7 (CD,F,G) (W Swiers) D Nicholls 9-10-0 — Alex Greaves 94
602 (13) 6042104 LAGO DI VARANO 13 (V,F,G,S) (PBT Group) R Whitaker 6-9-11 — Dean McKeown 100
603 (2) 0-42518 NIGHT FLIGHT 9 (BF,D,G) (C Stevens) R Fahey 4-9-7 — R Winston (5) 103
604 (3) 0-00640 ZUHAIR 14 (B,D,F) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 5-9-6 — Pat Eddery [illegible]
605 (5) 0060061 PRINCE DOME 9 (D,F,S) (G Jones) M Wane 4-9-5 — A Whelan 100
606 (19) -032660 TILER 17 (CD,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 6-9-4 — R Hills 100
607 (16) 0-24343 PRESENT CHANCE 28 (I Guise) B McMahon 4-9-2 — K Fallon 106
608 (17) 4150360 BENZOE 8 (CD,F,G,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 8-8-12 — D Harrison 101
609 (14) 22-0004 CUMBRIAN CARUSO 43 (D,F) (Cumbrian Ind Ltd) T Easterby 3-8-11 — L Charnock 98
610 (12) 2562014 BEE HEALTH BOY 9 (D,F,S) (Bee Health Ltd) M W Easterby 5-8-10 — G Parkin 97
611 (10) 0002351 JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 7 (V,D,F,G,S) (A Watson) M Dods 4-8-10 — J Weaver 106
612 (8) 43-1065 OH HEBE 35 (S) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 3-8-9 — C Lowther 106
613 (1) 12-5050 LORD OLIVIER 13 (D,F,G) (Miss V Jarvis) W Jarvis 8-8-9 — J Quinn 100
614 (15) 5-04324 FOR THE PRESENT 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 8-8-7 — L Dettori 103
615 (9) -024200 BINTANG TIMOR 13 (Lyons & Broughton) W Musson 4-8-7 — P McCabe 100
616 (11) 0-33223 STYLISH WAYS 9 (D,G,S) (I Hall) J Pearce 6-8-6 — J Reid 100
617 (7) 6-05000 GRAND CHAPEAU 7 (D,F,G) (D Faulkner) D Nicholls 6-8-1 — F Norton 100
618 (18) 000-205 WAIT'N'SEE 24 (F) (M Easterby) M W Easterby 3-8-0 — J Tate 104
619 (5) 500-010 RAMBOLD 16 (D,F,G) (R Collins) N Berry 7-7-10 — R Ffrench 97

Long handicap: Rambold 7-8.

BETTING: 6-1 Stylish Ways, 7-1 Night Flight, Prince Dome, 8-1 Bee Health Boy, 10-1 Lago Di Varano, 12-1 others.

1997: FARAWAY LASS 4-9-1 D Harrison (14-1) Lord Huntingdon 21 ran

FORM FOCUS Venture Capitalist 4¼l 4th of 12 to Bold Effort in handicap at Sandown (5f 6yd, good). Lago Di Varano 2¼l 4th of 10 to Broadstairs Beauty in handicap at Doncaster (5f, good). Zuhair 34l last of 15 to Gaelic Storm in handicap at Newcastle (6f, soft). Prince Dome beat Unshaken ½l in handicap at Haydock (6f, good to soft) with Stylish Ways (4lb better off) ½l 3rd, Bee Health Boy (6lb better off) 1¼l 4th, Night Flight (1lb better off) 2½l 6th and Benzoe (7lb better off) 4½l 10th. Tiler 7¼l 8th to Superior Premium in handicap at Chester (6f 18yd, good to soft). Present Chance ½l 3rd to Grey Kingdom in handicap at York (6f, good to soft) with Night Flight (7lb worse off) 3¼l 5th, Benzoe (6lb better off) 3½l 6th, Bee Health Boy (2lb worse off) 7l 7th and Grand Chapeau (8lb better off) 19l 15th. Jeffrey Anotherred beat Jawhari 1l in stakes at Carlisle (6f, good to firm) with For The Present (3lb better off) 4½l 4th. Oh Hebe 6¾l 5th to Selhurstpark Flyer in handicap at Epsom (6f, good) with Prince Dome (2lb worse off) 10l 9th.

JEFFREY ANOTHERRED should be followed now that he is back in form

5.15 MILLER GENUINE DRAUGHT NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £7,115: 5f) (8 runners)

1 (3) 215 PERUGINO BAY 67 (D,S) (J Freswell) B McMahon 9-7 — K Fallon [illegible]
2 (8) 211 CONWY LODGE 14 (D,G) (Lord Mostyn) J Berry 9-5 — G Carter 90
3 (7) 312 SAMMAL 51 (D,S) (Mrs A Mallinson) J Glover 9-1 — P Robinson 85
4 (4) 12225 ROSE'S TREASURE 21 (D,S) (J Kee) B Rothwell 9-0 — C Lowther 81
5 (6) 21616 OH I SAY 26 (D,F,S) (G Lederman & R Lederman) M Bell 8-11 — C Carver (7) 79
6 (2) 02022 NORTHERN SVENGALI 10 (T Coq) T Barron 8-6 — T Sprake 80
7 (5) 22410 COLLEGE MUSIC 4 (D,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 8-4 — L Charnock 88
8 (1) 31 AVONDALE GIRL 19 (D,G) (C Lynch) C Dwyer 8-2 — F Lynch 79

BETTING: 6-4 Conwy Lodge, 7-2 Sammal, 6-1 Oh I Say, 7-1 Avondale Girl, 10-1 Rose's Treasure, 12-1 others.

1997: SOCKET SET 9-5 M Roberts (7-2) B McMahon 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Perugino Bay 5l 5th of 7 to Queensland Star in stakes at Chester (5f 16yd, good) with Oh I Say (5lb better off) 7l 6th, previously beat College Music (12lb better off) 1¾l in 9-runner maiden stakes at Ripon (5f, heavy). Conwy Lodge beat Peira Nova 6l in 3-runner stakes at Doncaster (5f, good). Sammal 2½l 2nd of 4 to Rosselli in novice stakes at Newcastle (5f, good to firm). Northern Svengali 1l 3rd of 12 to Codicil in maiden auction stakes at Redcar (5f, good to soft). Avondale Girl beat Dream On Me 6l in 4-runner selling stakes at Yarmouth (5f 43yd, good).

PERUGINO BAY can underline the advantage of the top weight in a nursery

Surveyor's form stands up to close inspection

NEWBURY
TOMORROW

BBC2

2.00: Any ease in the ground would suit the Queen's Whitechapel, who retains his enthusaism despite advancing years and is still reasonably handicapped. However, provided the ground remains good or firmer, **Mawared** is the one to be on. Winner of four consecutive races last term, he was given too much to do at Goodwood eight weeks ago, his only start this term.

The Nashwan colt should appreciate the return to two miles on this more conventional track and he hails from a yard in cracking form. Simon Dow is wasting no time with the in-foal Premier Night, who won at Newmarket on Wednesday and she is the main danger.

2.30: The poorly drawn Sporting Lad boasts the best form of those with racecourse experience, but it would be no surprise to see *this go to one of the many* newcomers. The three that make most appeal are Azouz Pasha, the first foal out of a South African horse of the year, who cost $380,000 as a yearling; Sudden Squall, a $225,000 Gulch colt, and Nasheed, a Riverman filly out of a Ribblesdale Stakes winner. Preference, in a race to watch, is for the Sheikh Mohammed-owned **Sudden Squall.**

3.00: Backers of Literary Society, unbeaten in two starts this term, look sure to get a good run for their money. The well-drawn James Toller runner likes fast ground and is capable of finding the required improvement to feature in the shake-up. The James Bethell-trained Return Of Amin was a good second to Gaelic Storm at Newcastle, while Dancethenightaway just failed to peg back Selhurstpark Flyer in the Wokingham at Royal Ascot and must be considered.

Surveyor failed to land a big gamble on his seasonal reappearance when finishing seventh, beaten less than three lengths, by Hill Magic at Lingfield. That form has worked out well and the John Dunlop-trained colt looks well treated. A back-to-form Jayannpee and Triple Hay are others for the shortlist.



Dunlop: strong hand

3.30: Sugarfoot arguably boasts the best recent form, having been a good fourth to Refuse To Lose in the Royal Hunt Cup but is without a victory since his debut two years ago. Colway Ritz is a northern contender with a chance and Therhea has retained his form well this term. Hurtleberry goes well fresh. She recorded a career-best performance when winning easily on her seasonal reappearance at Haydock. She should go close off a 7lb higher mark.

Gay Kelleway has kept the weights down by declaring top weight Russian Music and that could help her other runner, **La Modiste**, who returned to form when quickening nicely inside the final furlong at Doncaster two weeks ago. She could still be a step ahead of the handicapper.

Richard Evans

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Distinctive Dance (4.15 York)
Next best: Sheer Danzig (3.40 York)
Nap: Mawared (2.00 Newbury tomorrow)
Next best: Surveyor (3.00 Newbury tomorrow)

Thunderer selected Nanoushka (9-1) and Tough Leader (5-2) at York yesterday

RACING NEXT WEEK

TOMORROW: Newbury (first race, 2.00), Haydock Park (2.10), Stratford (2.20).
MONDAY: Ayr (2.15), Brighton (2.00), Windsor (6.30), Wolverhampton (6.45).
TUESDAY: Beverley (2.15), Brighton (2.00).
WEDNESDAY: Catterick (2.20), Folkestone (2.10), Yarmouth (2.00), Doncaster (6.35), Sandown Park (6.25), Worcester (6.15).
THURSDAY: Bath (2.00), Doncaster (2.10), Leicester (2.20)
FRIDAY: Carlisle (2.10), Newbury (2.00), Southwell (AW, 1.50), Newmarket (6.30), Pontefract (6.45), *Salisbury (6.20).*
SATURDAY: Newbury (BBC, 1.30), Newmarket (C4, 2.10), Nottingham (2.20), Ripon (2.35), Ayr (6.25), Redcar (6.15), Warwick (6.35).
Flat meetings in bold

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	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
YORK	101	201
CHESTER	102	202
LINGFIELD	103	203
SALISBURY	104	204
WARWICK	105	205
SEDGEFIELD	106	206
SOUTHWELL	107	207
IRISH	120	220
SUNDAY RACING		
NEWBURY	108	208
HAYDOCK	109	209
STRATFORD	110	210
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CHESTER

THUNDERER

2.10 Pet Express Flyer. 2.45 Forgie. 3.15 Dashing Blue. 3.50 Miss Grapette. 4.25 Guinea Hunter. 4.55 Grand Musica.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 BROXTON NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,670: 7f 2yd) (10 runners) — SKY

1 3121 PET EXPRESS FLYER 19 (D,F,G) P Haslam 9-7 — J Fortune 4
2 041 APRIL ACE 14 (S) M Channon 8-13 — Martin Dwyer 1
3 0415 WOORE LASS 15 (S) R Hannon 8-11 — Dane O'Neill 5
4 450 DRURIDGE BAY 45 M Channon 8-6 — M Fenton 7
5 5525 SPENDTHEPROCEEDS 25 W G M Turner 8-4 — M Roberts 8
6 01 CATCH ME 18 (D,G) T Easterby 8-2 — J F Egan 3
7 3342 DYNAMIC DANCER 15 J J O'Neill 7-12 — G Bardwell 10
8 5011 TAMPA LADY 3 (D,F,S) M Johnston 7-12 (5ex) — N Adams 9
9 0125 MISS TAKE 4 (V) P Evans 7-10 — C Cogan (7) 2
10 052 MELODY QUEEN 11 Ron Thompson 7-10 — P Fessey 6

7-2 Catch Me, 5-1 Pet Express Flyer, April Ace, 6-1 Tampa Lady, 7-1 others.

2.45 CHESTER SUMMER HANDICAP (£7,025: 1m 7f 195yd) (9) — SKY

1 0606 GENERAL ASSEMBLY 29 (C,S) G Margarson 6-10-0 — R Cochrane 4
2 1043 FORGIE 21 (CD,F,G,S) P Calver 5-9-12 — N Day 9
3 2-12 DOMAPPEL 49 (C,F,G,S) Mrs J Cecil 6-9-10 — M Roberts 7
4 2203 JAMAICAN FLIGHT 14 (D,F) Mrs S Lamyman 5-9-0 — C Teague (3) 5
5 10-0 GREAT ORATION 16 (CD,F) F Watson 9-8-13 — J Fortune 2
6 -144 FLOATING LINE 15 (F,G,S) E Alston 10-8-7 — W Supple 6
7 3514 NORTHERN MOTTO 19 (D,F,S) J Goldie 5-8-4 — J F Egan 1
8 3510 MAZZELMO 9 (D) A Bailey 5-8-0 — G Bardwell 8
9 2614 DALLY BOY 16 (D,G,S) T Easterby 6-7-10 — Darren Moffatt (3) 3

7-2 Domappel, 9-2 Dally Boy, 5-1 Northern Motto, 13-2 Forgie, 7-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J Cecil, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%. T Etherington, 3 from 10, 30.0%. Mrs J Ramsden, 6 from 22, 27.3%. R Hannon, 10 from 57, 17.5%. B McMahon, 11 from 66, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: N Day 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%. G Bardwell, 5 from 19, 26.3%. Dane O'Neill, 3 from 14, 21.4%. M Roberts, 7 from 42, 16.7%. J Egan, 10 from 70, 14.3%. J Fortune, 11 from 80, 13.8%.

3.15 CITY WALL STAKES (Listed race: £18,381: 5f 16yd) (9) — SKY

1 4102 BISHOPS COURT 7 (C,D,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-4 — J Fortune 2
2 1500 TEDBURROW 22 (CD,F,S) E Alston 6-9-4 — W Supple 7
3 4-11 YORKIES BOY 70 (CD,F,S) B McMahon 3-9-2 — M Roberts 4
4 6-23 ALMATY 40 (BF,D,F,G,S) W Muir 5-9-0 — J F Egan 6
5 5040 DASHING BLUE 42 (BF,D,F,G) I Balding 5-9-0 — Martin Dwyer 3
6 -050 YA MALAK 22 (CD,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-9-0 — R Cochrane 9
7 0043 ZIGGY'S DANCER 13 (CD,F,G) E Alston 7-9-0 — S D Williams 8
8 4002 HOPPING HIGGINS 11 (D,G,S) R Hannon 3-8-4 — Dane O'Neill 5
9 3000 ITS ALL RELATIVE 13 (D,F,G) J Berry 3-8-4 — P Fessey 1

11-4 Bishops Court, 7-2 Yorkies Boy, Ya Malak, 5-1 Dashing Blue, 7-1 Almaty, 10-1 Hopping Higgins, 25-1 Tedburrow, Ziggy's Dancer, 40 Relative

3.50 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,250: 5f 16yd) (7) — SKY

1 KING OBERON W Haggas 9-0 — R Cochrane 5
2 TURTLE M Johnston 9-0 — M Roberts 6
3 52 KEY 33 R Hannon 8-9 — Dane O'Neill 2
4 33 MISS GRAPETTE 44 (BF) J Berry 8-9 — J Fortune 3
5 0 RECORD TIME 12 E Alston 8-9 — W Supple 7
6 52 RING OF LOVE 65 (BF) M Bell 8-9 — M Fenton 4
7 SPAT T Caldwell 8-5 — D Pears 1

2-1 Miss Grapette, 11-4 Turtle, 7-2 Ring Of Love, 9-2 Key, 12-1 King Oberon, 20-1 Record Time, 33-1 Spat.

4.25 MALPAS CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £8,422: 6f 18yd) (3)

1 21 GUINEA HUNTER 17 (D,S) T Easterby 9-0 — J Fortune 3
2 401 ACE OF PARKES 8 (F) J Berry 8-11 — D Pears 2
3 3214 DAMALIS 24 (C,F) E Alston 8-9 — W Supple 1

11-10 Damalis, 6-4 Guinea Hunter, 4-1 Ace Of Parkes.

4.55 CHESHIRE YEOMANRY HANDICAP (£4,328: 1m 2f 75yd) (10)

1 5606 RHEINBOLD 26 (S) T Etherington 4-9-10 — D Pears 1
2 0041 GRAND MUSICA 7 (V,F,G) I Balding 5-9-9 — Leanne Masterton (7) 2
3 4-66 TYPHOON EIGHT 12 (G) D Nicholls 6-9-7 — Wal Kan (7) 6
4 560- EPWORTH 269 L Barratt 4-9-6 — P Bradley (7) 8
5 0633 NO CLICHES 7 (D,F,S) D Nicholls 5-9-5 — R Cochrane 5
6 3014 RARE TALENT 9 (D,F,G) S Gollings 4-9-2 — Martin Dwyer 4
7 3-33 MAD MILITANT 17 (C,F,G,S) A Streeter 9-9-0 — M Roberts 3
8 0500 EMPIRE GOLD 13 Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-11 — J Fortune 9
9 0302 AMBIDEXTROUS 7 (BF,CD,F,G) E Alston 6-8-10 — W Supple 10
10 0603 WENTBRIDGE LAD 17 (V,C,D,F,G,S) W Brisbourne 3-8-10 — D Griffiths (3) 7

11-4 Ambidextrous, 3-1 Grand Musica, 9-2 No Cliches, 8-1 Mad Militant, 10-1 Typhoon Eight, 12-1 Rare Talent, Wentbridge Lad, 14-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Ivory's Promise. 2.55 Shfoug. 3.25 No Extras. 4.00 Entropy. 4.35 Way Out Yonder. 5.05 Waiting Knight.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS
DRAW: 6F-7F 140YD, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 EBF HOLBROOK NOVICE STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,850: 7f) (6 runners) — SKY

1 (5) 11 LIONARDO 21 (F) P Smith (Bell) 9-2 — D O'Donohoe –
2 (4) 5210 CAPTAIN MILLER 16 (CD,S) M Channon 9-0 — A Mackay 80
3 (3) 1332 DIABLO DANCER 16 (S) B Millman 9-0 — G Hind 85
4 (1) 5150 IVORY'S PROMISE 24 (G) N Ivory 8-11 — N Callan (7) [illegible]
5 (2) PINNACLE W Haggas 8-7 — M Hills –
6 (6) RAHAYEB J Dunlop 8-7 — K Darley –

6-4 Diablo Dancer, 11-4 Rahayeb, 6-1 Ivory's Promise, 7-1 Captain Miller, 8-1 Pinnacle, 10-1 Lionardo

2.55 ORANGE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,911: 7f) (11) — SKY

1 (10) 2130 SMOOTH SAILING 10 (D,S) K McAuliffe 9-7 — N Callan (7) 98
2 (3) 3021 SABHAAN 30 (D,F) M Tregoning 9-5 — W R Swinburn [illegible]
3 (11) 1-43 SHFOUG 15 (BF,D,S) B Hills 9-3 — J D Smith (3) 94
4 (1) 6085 OVERTURE 8 (G) R Hannon 9-0 — R Hughes 89
5 (5) 0840 GIFT OF GOLD 29 (BF,D,S) A Kelleway 9-13 — A Mackay 98
6 (2) 1153 THREE ANGELS 9 (BF,D,F,G) M Tompkins 8-10 — D Biggs 89
7 (8) 22-6 SILVERSMITH 8 C Dow 8-10 — W Ryan 79
8 (9) 0400 OKIKUSHA 14 B Meehan 9-9 — M Hills 74
9 (7) 0051 ACID TEST 21 (CD,F,S) W Muir 9-5 — K Darley 80
10 (6) 5146 MIJA'S MAGIC 5 (V,G) K Ivory 8-0 — R Mullen (3) 86
11 (4) 1440 LITTLE TUMBLER 16 (G,F) S Woodman 7-10 — P Doe (5) 79

5-1 Three Angels, 6-1 Sabhaan, 7-1 Smooth Sailing, Shfoug, Acid Test, 8-1 Gift Of Gold, Little Tumbler, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Candy, 7 winners from 34 runners, 20.6%. J Gosden, 14 from 69, 20.3%. B Hanbury, 10 from 53, 18.9%. M Johnston, 52 from 294, 17.7%. S Woods, 15 from 91, 16.5%.

JOCKEYS: W R Swinburn, 7 winners from 33 rides, 21.2%. W Ryan, 34 from 211, 16.1%. M Hills, 14 from 90, 15.6%. G Hind, 9 from 74, 12.2%. K Darley, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

3.25 DAILY MAIL CLASSIFIED SILVER TROPHY RATED HANDICAP (Listed race: (£10,245: 7f 140yd) (7) — SKY

1 (2) 9-34 DARING DESTINY 15 (CD,F,G,S) K Burke 7-9-7 — D O'Donohoe 100
2 (7) 4031 NO EXTRAS 22 (C,D,F,G,S) G L Moore 8-9-5 — W R Swinburn 108
3 (1) 4-36 HEADHUNTER 24 (B,G) W Haggas 3-9-2 — M Hills [illegible]
4 (3) 3421 PANTAR 13 (F) I Balding 3-9-1 — K Darley 109
5 (4) 4150 VOLLEY 13 (F) D Chappell 5-8-11 — C Rutter 100
6 (6) -161 FIZZED 21 (D,S) M Johnston 3-8-11 — R Hughes 106
7 (5) 0021 SILVERING 21 (D,F,G,S) M Meade 6-8-11 — M Tebbutt 98

5-2 Pantar, 7-2 No Extras, 9-2 Fizzed, 6-1 Headhunter, Silvering, 7-1 Daring Destiny, 16-1 Volley.

4.00 M & B BRIGGS RUBY WEDDING CELEBRATION NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,512: 6f) (7) — SKY

1 (4) 10 CHORAL EXPRESS 22 (D,G) W Muir 9-7 — J Wilkinson (5) 77
2 (7) 441 SAAFEND ROCK 18 (C,F) R Hannon 9-5 — R Hughes [illegible]
3 (3) 514 BY THE GLASS 30 (G) P Walwyn 9-4 — W R Swinburn 84
4 (6) 6234 BANNINGHAM BREEZE 6 (B) K Ivory 9-12 — K Darley 79
5 (5) 3333 ENTROPY 6 (BF) R Hannon 8-11 — C Rutter 76
6 (2) 630 MISSING TED 14 S Dow 8-3 — P Doe (5) 80
7 (1) 401 POCO 53 (F) M Channon 7-12 — A Mackay 78

7-2 Entropy, 4-1 Choral Express, 9-2 Saafend Rock, 5-1 Banningham Breeze, 11-2 By The Glass, 6-1 Missing Ted, 10-1 Poco

4.35 FDI MAIDEN STAKES (£3,590: 1m 6f) (4)

1 (2) 5-4 JANDAL 172 (V) G L Moore 4-9-11 — Candy Morris –
2 (4) 064 BERSAGLIO 13 W Jarvis 3-8-10 — G Hind 85
3 (3) 0223 WAY OUT YONDER 14 (BF) B Hills 3-8-10 — M Hills [illegible]
4 (1) 0 WINNING SAINT 53 M Tompkins 3-8-10 — K Darley –

4-7 Way Out Yonder, 7-4 Bersaglio, 16-1 Winning Saint, 25-1 Jandal

5.05 RACING CHANNEL MAIDEN STAKES (£3,915: 1m 1f) (7)

1 (1) 0 KINNINO 13 G L Moore 4-9-7 — Candy Morris –
2 (4) WILLY WILLY H Candy 5-9-7 — C Rutter –
3 (5) 3604 BANKER DWERRY 15 S Woods 3-8-11 — R Mullen (3) [illegible]
4 (3) 0 BOLLAN 8 R Simpson 3-8-11 — M Gallagher –
5 (7) 05 GENEROUS WAYS 62 E Dunlop 3-8-11 — K Darley 80
6 (6) 0002 WAITING KNIGHT 14 B Hanbury 3-8-11 — W R Swinburn 70
7 (2) 0 OAK VINTAGE 42 J Gosden 3-8-6 — G Hind –

7-4 Waiting Knight, 9-4 Oak Vintage, 9-2 Banker Dwerry, 8-1 Bollan, 12-1 Generous Ways, 14-1 Willy Willy, 20-1 Kinnino

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12/1	Song Of Freedom	33/1	Anak-Ku
14/1	Cardigan Bay	33/1	Philistar
14/1	Distinctive Dance	40/1	Mazeed
14/1	Dower House	50/1	Sky Dome
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Bahr can continue Godolphin run

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

IT MAY be royal blue rather than a purple patch, but no one can dispute the excellent form of the Godolphin team at present. Bahr can continue the run by taking the Kildangan Stud Irish Oaks at the Curragh tomorrow.

Sheikh Mohammed will be keen for Bahr to do just that as he sponsors the classic, which was a happy hunting ground for him in the late Eighties. Unite (1987), the dead-heaters Diminuendo and Melodist (1988), and Alydaress (1989), were successful for him, but the cupboard has been bare since. Bahr looks capable of putting that right.

A convincing defeat of Midnight Line in the Musidora Stakes at York was confirmed in the Oaks at Epsom but, after looking to have the classic sewn up two furlongs out, Frankie Dettori seemed to be caught unawares by Michael Kinane's late challenge and Bahr was beaten three-quarters of a length by the Irish filly, Shahtoush.

Bahr had a hard race at Epsom, but was quickly brought out again to capture the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot from Star Begonia. That Aidan O'Brien-trained filly was a surprise withdrawal yesterday, but there is still a two-pronged Ballydoyle attack. Nevertheless, Bahr won with authority at Ascot and should be suited by the forecast good going.

O'Brien's attempt to win one of the only two Irish classics to elude him is headed by Kitza, second to Tarascon in the Irish 1,000 Guineas in May. Kinane takes the ride, leaving Christy Roche, the seven-times Irish champion who retires at the end of the season, to team up with the seasonal debutant, Musk Lime.

Kitza has never raced beyond a mile, but her style of racing should give her every chance of staying the trip. She, along with John Oxx's Coronation Stakes-third Winona, looks the best chance of a home victory.

Britain is also represented by the Luca Cumani-trained Glorosia, third to Another Dancer in a 12-furlong group three event at Longchamp last month, and Napoleon's Sister, David Elsworth's representative, who was beaten 14 lengths when fifth behind Shahtoush at Epsom, after winning a listed Goodwood event in promising style.

They are decent fillies but Bahr looks the one to beat. A slight concern is that she is not a robust filly, who has had three comparatively quick races. But, if they have not taken their toll, **Bahr** should become the first Epsom Oaks runner-up since Regal Exception in 1972 to land the Irish equivalent.

Two more British contenders, Ramooz and Centre Stalls, take their chance in the group three Minstrel Stakes over a mile, in which Burden Of Proof, a course and distance winner, will be hard to beat, while Jennelle and Repertory run in the listed Rockingham Handicap over five furlongs.

□ Visitors to the Curragh are advised to travel early from Dublin because of the Tour de France cycle race.

CURRAGH TOMORROW BBC2

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

4.50 KILDANGAN STUD IRISH OAKS
(Group I: 3-Y-O fillies: £114,700: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

1 (7) 0101-30 AMRAVATI 50 (C,F,S) (D Dobson) J Bolger 9-0 K J Manning
2 (8) 43 ANNUAL VISIT 46 (R Sangster) T Stack 9-0 J P Spencer
3 (3) 11-121 BAHR 24 (D,F,S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 9-0 L Dettori
4 (1) 0-11 BELDARIAN 57 (D,G,S) (G Jennings) J Oxx 9-0 P J Smullen
5 (9) 131-3 GLOROSIA 21 (F) (Robert H Smith) L Cumani (GB) 9-0 W R Swinburn
6 (5) 400-212 KITZA 49 (G,S) (Mrs E Stockwell) A P O'Brien 9-0 M J Kinane
7 (4) 26312- MUSK LIME 258 (G) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien 9-0 C Roche
8 (2) 515 NAPOLEON'S SISTER 37 (F) (Mrs A Coughlan) D Elsworth (GB) 9-0 R Hughes
9 (6) 1025-43 WINONA 25 (G) (Lady Clague) J Oxx 9-0 J P Murtagh

BETTING: 4-5 Bahr, 7-2 Glorosia, 7-1 Napoleon's Sister, 8-1 Kitza, 12-1 Beldarian, 14-1 Winona, 16-1 Musk Lime, 50-1 others.

1997: EBADIYLA 9-0 J P Murtagh (9-2) J Oxx 11 ran

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

6.35 Hever Golf Machine. 7.05 Formidable Star. 7.35 Anthony Mon Amour. 8.05 First Maite. 8.35 Melody Blues. 9.05 Premium Quest.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

6.35 PRETORIA MAIDEN STAKES SKY
(3-Y-O: £2,873: 1m) (7 runners)

1 3 BALLYKEEFE 21 T Etherington 9-0 A Culhane 1
2 00- COLLEGE CLIPPER 215 J L Harris 9-0 S Righton (7) 7
3 6625 GOLDFAME 15 W O'Gorman 9-0 Emma O'Gorman 2
4 3604 HEVER GOLF MACHINE 17 T Naughton 9-0 J Carroll 3
5 40 ALBERIONNE 14 J L Harris 8-9 Dale Gibson 5
6 0 HOPPIT 14 P Howling 8-9 O Urbina 6
7 500 LADY OF SPAIN 45 J Leigh 8-9 Dean McKeown 4

11-8 Hever Golf Machine, 5-2 Ballykeefe, 11-4 Goldfame, 12-1 Alberionne, 20-1 Hoppit, 33-1 College Clipper, Lady Of Spain.

7.05 BROOKLANDS OF SUTTON IN ASHFIELD NURSERY HANDICAP SKY
(2-Y-O: £2,924: 5f) (8)

1 3505 FORMIDABLE STAR 12 N Littmoden 9-7 R Lappin 6
2 4313 JACKIE'S BABY 28 (CD) W G M Turner 9-5 J F Egan 4
3 4303 PALACE GREEN 31 (CD) D Chapman 8-13 A Culhane 2
4 2611 MAMMAS F-C 19 (CD,F) J Berry 8-10 P Fessey 7
5 254 SUPER FORUM 29 M Johnston 8-10 J Carroll 8
6 1420 LIVELY LADY 21 (D,S) J Jenkins 8-10 C Lowther 1
7 6240 PASHA 43 (V) N Tinkler 8-3 Kim Tinkler 5
8 012 POLLY MILLS 15 (BF,D,S) P Evans 7-12 C Cogan (7) 3

3-1 Mammas F-C, 7-2 Super Forum, 5-1 Polly Mills, 6-1 Formidable Star, 8-1 Palace Green, Lively Lady, 10-1 Jackie's Baby, Pasha.

7.35 BROOKLANDS OF BOSTON CLASSIFIED STAKES SKY
(£2,301: 6f) (6)

1 5325 PHARAOH'S JOY 12 (C,D,F) A Newcombe 5-9-2 R Cochrane 2
2 2040 THEATRE MAGIC 129 (C) D Shaw 5-9-2 J Fanning 4
3 0400 TINKER'S SURPRISE 8 (F) J Balding 4-9-2 J Edmunds 1
4 4413 ANTHONY MON AMOUR 5 (BF,D,G) W Haggas 3-8-13 K Fallon 3
5 0020 INFLATION 12 (V) J Leigh 4-8-13 Dean McKeown 6
6 0040 CAMEO 8 M Channon 3-8-10 A Mackay 5

6-4 Anthony Mon Amour, 2-1 Pharaoh's Joy, 9-2 Theatre Magic, 10-1 Inflation, 14-1 Tinker's Surprise, 16-1 Cameo.

8.05 JAMES MAUDE FOUNDRYMENS HANDICAP SKY
(£3,558: 7f) (7)

1 1235 FIRST MAITE 13 (B,BF,C,G,S) S Bowring 5-10-0 K Fallon 7
2 2012 KAYO 14 (BF,CD,F,S) T Etherington 3-9-10 R Cochrane 6
3 0415 MR PARADISE 9 (CD,F,S) R Cowell 4-9-6 R Studholme (5) 4
4 0104 ELTON LEDGER 2 (V,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-6 P McCabe 5
5 0040 LOVE ACADEMY 14 (F) M Johnston 3-9-5 J Carroll 2
6 0113 VICE PRESIDENTIAL 14 (BF,D,S) M Bielby 3-9-4 A Culhane 1
7 1050 MR FROSTY 25 (CD) W Jarvis 6-9-2 C Lowther 3

2-1 Kayo, 3-1 First Maite, 5-1 Mr Paradise, 13-2 Vice Presidential, 10-1 Elton Ledger, Love Academy, Mr Frosty.

8.35 QUEENSTOWN SELLING STAKES SKY
(2-Y-O: £1,918: 6f) (8)

1 0405 GIFTO WE'RE GONZO 15 (V) Mrs N Macauley 8-11 P McCabe 5
2 00 GREY STRIKE 18 J Berry 8-11 P Fessey 1
3 SOUNDS LUCKY N Littmoden 8-11 P Goode (7) 8
4 04 ULTRA NEAT 24 P Evans 8-11 J F Egan 7
5 3350 WELSH ASSEMBLY 26 G Enright 8-11 K Fallon 2
6 3 MELODY BLUES 11 M Dods 8-6 Dale Gibson 3
7 4 MILINKY 84 D Shaw 8-6 J Fanning 6
8 0322 SUPER STRIDES 12 C Fairhurst 8-6 C Lowther 4

11-4 Super Strides, 7-2 Melody Blues, 5-1 Ultra Neat, 6-1 Grey Strike, 7-1 Sounds Lucky, 8-1 Milinky, 12-1 Gifto We're Gonzo, Welsh Assembly.

9.05 CAPE PROVINCE HANDICAP SKY
(3-Y-O: £2,807: 1m 4f) (8)

1 000 COURTLEDGE 31 Miss J A Camacho 9-7 L Charnock 4
2 0630 PREMIUM QUEST 8 (B,S) R Fahey 9-3 K Fallon 6
3 0001 GROSVENOR SPIRIT 7 (F) P Chapple-Hyam 9-3 R Havlin (3) 5
4 0000 GLAMORGAN 8 M Pipe 8-5 F Norton 1
5 6430 AVERHAM STAR 7 D Shaw 7-13 J Fanning 7
6 -000 LAKE WOBEGONE 12 (F) John Berry 7-10 Declan O'Shea 3
7 -046 TINDAYA 12 P Evans 7-10 C Cogan (7) 8
8 0060 CARLASANTA 12 A Newcombe 7-10 A Mackay 2

7-4 Grosvenor Spirit, 3-1 Premium Quest, 9-2 Glamorgan, 8-1 Averham Star, 10-1 Tindaya, 12-1 Lake Wobegone, 16-1 Courtledge, 20-1 Carlasanta.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W O'Gorman, 17 winners from 79 runners, 21.5%; M Johnston, 46 from 228, 20.2%; W Haggas, 6 from 30, 20.0%; M Channon, 8 from 44, 18.2%; W Jarvis, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: R Studholme, 4 winners from 19 rides, 21.1%; Emma O'Gorman, 16 from 77, 20.8%; K Fallon, 22 from 125, 17.6%; C Lowther, 14 from 99, 14.1%; R Cochrane, 21 from 160, 13.1%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 4.00 Banningham Breeze, 4.35 Jandal. Salisbury: 3.55 Tykeyvor, 5.00 Bayin. Sedgefield: 6.55 Commando Dancer. Southwell: 7.05 Pasha, 7.35 Inflation, 9.05 Premium Quest. Warwick: 6.45 Formentiere, 8.45 Lady Muck, 9.15 Gandoura, Margone. York: 2.00 Stormin

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

York

Going: good to firm

2.05 (5f) 1, BLESSINGINDISGUISE (T Lucas, 15-2); 2, Polly Golightly (C Rutter, 3-1); 3, Monte Lemos (Pat Eddery, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Westcourt Magic, 8 The Gay Fox (5th), 9 Squire Corrie, 10 King Of Peru (4th), 16 Top Of The Form (6th). 8 ran. Sh hd, 3l, nk, 1¾l, ¾l. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Tote: £10.70; £2.60, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £13.80. CSF: £28.50. Tricast: £82.28.

2.35 (1m 3f 195yd) 1, TOUGH LEADER (J Fortune, 5-2 fav); 2, Blueprint (T Quinn, 4-1); 3, Indian Missile (Pat Eddery, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Yavana's Pace (4th), 13-2 Carlys Quest, 9 Awesome Wells (6th), 11 Crystal Falls (5th). 7 ran. 2½l, sh hd, 3l, ½l. 9l. B Hanbury at Newmarket. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £4.70. CSF: £10.33.

3.05 (6f) 1, NANOUSHKA (Pat Eddery, 9-1); 2, Crazee Mental (A Mackay, 7-1); 3, Qilin (D Biggs, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-6 fav Ashraakat (4th), 8 Nadwah (6th), Vignette, 33 Prends Ca (5th). 7 ran. 3½l, 4l, 1l, 3½l, hd. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £9.40; £2.80, £1.60. DF: £30.50. CSF: £62.67.

3.35 (7f 202yd) 1, YOUNG PRECEDENT (Pat Eddery, 5-1 fav); 2, High Spirits (R Winston, 8-1); 3, Night Chorus (W Supple, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Asset Manager, 13-2 Pride Of Pendle, 7 Lucky Archer (5th), Royal Result, 8 Duraid, 10 Cybertechnology, Tafts Well, 12 Dispol Diamond (6th), 14 Highborn (4th). 12 ran. 1¾l, sh hd, sh hd, nk, ¾l. P Harris at Berkhamsted. Tote: £6.90; £2.20, £3.30, £13.10. DF: £31.40. Trio: £689.40. CSF: £44.58. Tricast: £575.66.

4.10 (7f 202yd) 1, LUCAYAN INDIAN (J Fortune, 10-11 fav); 2, Bold Words (Pat Eddery, 11-4); 3, West-A-Minute (T Quinn, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Beauchamp King (4th). 4 ran. 1¾l, 1½l, 2½l. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.50.

4.40 (6f 214yd) 1, ETIZAAZ (R Hills, 3-1); 2, Silver Apple (T Quinn, 11-2); 3, Peace Of Mind (Pat Eddery, 11-10 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Riverblue (4th), 6 Evasive Step (5th), 20 Carradium (6th). 6 ran. 6l, 1l, 1¾l, hd, 10l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £3.90; £2.30, £2.60. DF: £11.40. CSF: £19.60.

Jackpot: £16,339.10 (0.1 winning tickets). Pool of £20,711.57 carried forward to York today).

Placepot: £423.60.

Quadpot: £119.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: good to firm

2.00 (5f) 1, BOLD FRONTIER (Martin Dwyer, 9-2); 2, Palacegate Jack (L Dettori, 4-1); 3, Anokato (J Quinn, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 3 fav Mystical (5th), 5 Pericato, 6 Friendly Brave (4th), 16 Wichita, 20 Midnight Cookie (6th), 33 Newhargen. 9 ran. ½l, 5l, sh hd, 5l, ¾l. F Ivory at Radlett. Tote: £6.40; £2.00, £1.20, £2.50. DF: £6.20. Trio: £27.60. CSF: £21.96.

2.30 (6f) 1, ISHTIHAR (L Dettori, 5-4 fav); 2, Indian Warrior (G Hind, 5-2); 3, Black Silk (S Sanders, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 12 Divorce Action (5th), 14 Catullus (4th), 20 Gold Coast (6th), 50 Fearless Lady. 7 ran. NR: Lethal Hope. 3½l, 3l, 2l, ¾l, nk. S bin Suroor at Newmarket. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £2.70. DF: £4.20. CSF: £4.33.

3.00 (6f) 1, IVORY DAWN (N Pollard, 11-4 fav); 2, Sally Green (S Sanders, 8-1); 3, Contrary Mary (G Carter, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Bolshaya, 8 Aquatic Queen, Mijas, Phoenix Princess, 10 Heavenly Miss, 16 Centre Court (5th), 25 Hil Rhapsody (4th), 33 Dahlidya, 40 Nellie North (6th). 12 ran. 1¾l, 3½l, ¾l, nk, 1¾l. K Ivory at Radlett. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £2.10, £2.10. DF: £8.80. Trio: £92.90. CSF: £23.98. Tricast: £254.45.

3.30 (7f 140yd) 1, TEMERAIRE (R Hughes, 5-4 fav); 2, King Slayer (J Stack, 11-2); 3, Dushanbe (O Urbina, 2-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Mawingo (5th), 8 Cayman Kai (4th). 5 ran. Nk, 1¾l, 5l, 8l. Mrs A Perrett at Pulborough. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £2.40. DF: £5.70. CSF: £8.57.

4.00 (1m 3f 106yd) 1, TIGULLIO (G Hind, 6-4 fav, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Forest Fire (N Pollard, 3-1); 3, Lady Felix (J Quinn, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 La Lyonesse (6th), 8 Tabasco (5th), 12 Captain McCloy, 25 Mail Shot (4th), 33 Omar's Odyssey, Shambles. 9 ran. NR: Franklin Lakes. 1¾l, 3l, sh hd, 2l, 5l. C Wall at Newmarket. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £1.40, £4.20. DF: £3.90. Trio: £14.90. CSF: £5.39. Tricast: £38.03.

4.30 (1m 2f) 1, HAWKSBILL HENRY (A Clark, 7-1); 2, Sweet Patoopie (L Dettori, 11-2); 3, Thoughtful Kate (G Hind, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Errant, 11-2 Law Dancer (4th), Shanghai Lil, 6 Multi Franchise (6th), 7 Ki Chi Saga, 10 Whatever's Right (5th), 12 Burning, 33 Falkenberg, Regal Splendour. 12 ran. Hd, 9l, 8l, sh hd, 5l. Mrs A Perrett at Pulborough. Tote: £9.40; £3.40, £2.00, £7.80. DF: £29.70. Trio: £50.70. CSF: £46.97. Tricast: £571.11.

Placepot: £146.80.

Quadpot: £17.00.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

2.20 (6f) 1, Press Ahead (R Cochrane, 5-2); 2, One To Go (6-1); 3, Deketsmary (11-1). Critical Air 9-4 fav. 9 ran. 1½l, 2l. B McMahon. Tote: £3.80; £1.70, £1.10, £3.40. DF: £8.20. Trio: £46.10. CSF: £16.86.

2.50 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, Rosie Jaques (R Smith, 8-1); 2, Amber Regent (3-1); 3, Ruby Boar (15-2). Lady Eil 4-6 fav. 7 ran. ½l, 2l. N Littmoden. Tote: £8.90; £2.10, £2.30. DF: £14.50. CSF: £34.57.

3.20 (1m 100yd) 1, Cheerful Groom (J Fanning, 9-4 fav); 2, Sea Spouse (100-30); 3, Kailey Goddess (4-1). 5 ran. 1¾l, hd. D Shaw. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £2.20. DF: £3.30. CSF: £9.32.

3.50 (7f) 1, Sis Garden (N Callan, 4-1); 2, Hit The Spot (4-6 fav); 3, Recognition (7-1). 10 ran. Nk, 7l. J Cullinan. Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £1.10, £2.40. DF: £6.80. Trio: £19.60. CSF: £8.15.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, Banneret (L Newton, 10-11 fav); 2, Bonne Ville (4-1); 3, Final Stab (5-2). 8 ran. NR: Avanti Blue. 1¾l, 2½l. G Woodward. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £5.00. Trio: £2.20. CSF: £4.82.

4.50 (5f) 1, Dyce (J Edmunds, 16-1); 2, Dona Filipa (7-1); 3, Pharaoh's Joy (5-2). Shifting Time 7-4 fav. 7 ran. Nk, hd. J Balding. Tote: £50.50; £6.70, £3.80. DF: £55.90. CSF: £122.14.

Placepot: £417.80. Quadpot: £65.20.

Perrett in fine form at Lingfield

AMANDA PERRETT secured her first Flat double at Lingfield yesterday with Temeraire and Hawksbill Henry. Temeraire, carrying Khalid Abdulla's colours, was first to oblige, holding King Slayer by a neck in the Banker Classified Stakes.

The son of Dayjur, who had made his debut behind the Derby winner, High-Rise, at Doncaster last year, was adding to a Windsor win. Perrett said: "He's a workmanlike horse. I think he would get further but he's won over a mile and it was nearly a mile today, so why change?"

Hawksbill Henry's success in the July Handicap was helped by an enterprising ride from Tony Clark, who poached a long lead half-a-mile from home and held Sweet Patoopie by a head.

Godolphin maintained its 100 per cent record with its two-year-olds when Ishtihar, the second youngster to appear, landed an authoritative victory in the Rydon Group Maiden Stakes under Frankie Dettori.

Trainer Saeed bin Suroor said: "He was good in Dubai and he improves all the time. We have started him small and maybe we find a conditions race for him."

Chris Wall won the Eagle Star Re. Handicap with Tigullio, ridden by Gary Hind.

SALISBURY

THUNDERER

2.15 Bitter Sweet. 2.50 Divine Lady. 3.20 Respond. 3.55 Nordic Breeze. 4.30 Durham. 5.00 Meranti.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 EBF QUEENPOT MAIDEN STAKES SKY
(2-Y-O: £3,643: 6f 212yd) (9 runners)

1 4 COL-WOODY 29 A Jarvis 9-0 D Sweeney 1
2 54 LITIGATE 12 R Hannon 9-0 S Sanders 9
3 0 ROBERGERIE 16 M Channon 9-0 R Perham 5
4 SHAMEL J Dunlop 9-0 T Quinn 8
5 0 SHARP ENDING 18 A Jarvis 9-0 S Clancy (7) 6
6 00 WILD TIMES 19 E Wheeler 9-0 S Carson (7) 2
7 55 BITTER SWEET 10 D Elsworth 8-9 N Pollard (5) 4
8 SHOOGLE J Gosden 8-9 A McGlone 3
9 0 TRIPLE RAISE 47 R Hannon 8-9 W J O'Connor 7

7-4 Shoogle, 2-1 Shamel, 7-1 Bitter Sweet, 8-1 Triple Raise, 12-1 Litigate, 14-1 Robergerie, 20-1 Col-Woody, Sharp Ending, 33-1 Wild Times.

2.50 MYROBELLA NOVICE AUCTION STAKES SKY
(2-Y-O: £2,444: 6f) (9)

1 0 AUTOCRAT 52 M Channon 8-12 R Perham 3
2 5314 DAVID 11 (BF,D,G) Miss G Kelleway 8-11 S Drowne 2
3 1 GREY PRINCESS 19 (D,F) P Harris 8-10 T Quinn 1
4 5145 DAME JUDE 14 (S) W Muir 8-8 S Sanders 8
5 00 MISS RIMEX 17 D Elsworth 8-7 N Pollard (5) 5
6 3 DULFORD 29 B Millman 8-6 A McCarthy (3) 6
7 41 DIVINE LADY 32 (CD,S) A Jarvis 8-5 D Sweeney 9
8 000 SISTER PATRICE 17 Mrs P Dutfield 8-4 R Havlin (3) 4
9 AMAZON R Hannon 8-1 P Fitzsimons (7) 7

9-4 Dame Jude, 11-4 Grey Princess, Divine Lady, 8-1 David, 10-1 Amazon, 16-1 Autocrat, 20-1 Dulford, 25-1 others.

3.20 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES SKY
(Handicap: 3-Y-O: £5,862: 1m) (11)

1 4001 RESPOND 16 (CD,F) G L Moore 9-7 T Quinn 5
2 061- FIRST MASTER 263 (G) Miss G Kelleway 9-7 S Sanders 10
3 -100 PROSPECTRESS 20 (F) Lord Huntingdon 9-6 Aimee Cook (5) 7
4 5-30 FLUSH 52 J Hills 9-6 A Clark 1
5 0040 CAVERSFIELD 11 (F,G) R Hannon 9-4 R Perham 2
6 0-20 CHIEF CASHIER 28 G Balding 9-2 S Drowne 11
7 3215 GAILY MILL 15 (C,S) I Balding 9-1 A McCarthy (3) 6
8 0-23 BEST QUEST 47 J Gosden 8-13 A McGlone 8
9 -040 DARE 21 E L James 8-10 A Daly (3) 3
10 2110 ROGER ROSS 21 (CD,S) R Flower 8-7 R Price 9
11 0344 MAI TAI 16 (BF) Mrs P Dutfield 8-5 N Pollard (5) 4

3-1 Best Quest, 5-1 Roger Ross, 6-1 Prospectress, 7-1 Respond, Flush, 8-1 Chief Cashier, 12-1 Gaily Mill, 14-1 others.

3.55 NEWMARKET NAKED OATS HANDICAP SKY
(Amateurs: £2,416: 1m 4f) (16)

1 6003 TYKEYVOR 18 (B,BF,C,D,F,S) Lady Herries 8-11-7 S P Hennessy (3) 11
2 0111 FLYING EAGLE 10 (G,S) R Simpson 7-11-5 J Owen (5) 6
3 4-02 NORDIC BREEZE 8 (V,G) M Pipe 6-10-11 T Scudamore (7) 1
4 5016 SEA DANZIG 15 (F,G) J Bridger 5-10-8 Miss R Illman (5) 2
5 00-0 BEAUCHAMP MAGIC 74 G A Butler 3-9-12 B McGann (5) 3
6 0/0- AMBER VALLEY 320J (S) D Williams 7-9-10 R Forrestal (7) 5
7 000/ SAATCHMO 186J J Spearing 6-9-10 Miss C Spearing (5) 14
8 60-0 CATCHMENT 17 Mrs A Perrett 4-9-6 Mrs A Perrett 10
9 0602 FOURDANED 21 T D Mccarthy 5-9-5 Mrs K Hills (7) 4
10 0063 PREMIER LEAGUE 12 (G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 8-9-3 V Lukaniuk (5) 16
11 0424 COH SHO NO 7 (F) S Dow 5-9-3 R Guest (5) 7
12 0232 SAINT ALBERT 8 P Walwyn 3-9-3 Miss S Samworth (3) 13
13 00/0 CULTURAL ICON 38 P Mitchell 6-9-3 D. Dunsdon (7) 9
14 -365 PATRITA PARK 4 W G M Turner 4-9-3 Miss C Stretton (7) 12
15 0000 SARUM 15 (F) J Long 12-9-3 T Waters (7) 15
16 00-0 VICKY JAZZ 19 J S Moore 3-9-3 Mrs S Moore (5) 8

3-1 Nordic Breeze, 4-1 Flying Eagle, 6-1 Sea Danzig, Coh Sho No, 7-1 Tykeyvor, 10-1 Fourdaned, Premier League, 12-1 others.

4.30 FELSTEAD CLASSIFIED STAKES
(£2,290: 1m 6f 15yd) (6)

1 5-36 DURHAM 15 (D,F,G) G L Moore 7-9-6 S Drowne 6
2 -055 GENERAL HASTIE 64 C Popham 4-9-6 R Havlin (3) 2
3 0-44 OLIVO 17 (F) C Horgan 4-9-6 T Quinn 4
4 /054 RIVER JUNCTION 15 B Smart 7-9-6 J Stack 5
5 -006 SERIOUS TRUST 45 (CD,F) Mrs L Jewell 5-9-6 A McCarthy (3) 3
6 -330 SUCH BOLDNESS 17 Miss G Kelleway 4-9-6 P Fredericks (7) 1

5-4 Durham, 3-1 Olivo, 4-1 Such Boldness, 8-1 River Junction, 10-1 Serious Trust, 25-1 General Hastie.

5.00 OWEN TUDOR HANDICAP (£3,176: 6f) (16)

1 0634 BEYOND CALCULATION 14 (BF,D,F) J Bradley 4-10-0 S Drowne 7
2 4003 SAMWAR 12 (D,G) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-13 S Sanders 4
3 3233 TINKER OSMASTON 19 (BF,D,F,S) R Hodges 7-9-8 N Pollard (5) 3
4 6220 MALADERIE 4 (V,D,F) M Channon 4-9-7 T Quinn 1
5 0-06 TAILWIND 165 (D,F) W Muir 4-9-4 M Mathers (7) 5
6 0040 MATOAKA 3 (F) V Soane 4-9-1 A Clark 12
7 00-0 MACGILLYCUDDY 64 (D,G,S) Mrs P Dutfield 9-8-13 Lisa Somers (7) 11
8 6050 BAYIN 10 (V,D,F,G,S) M Usher 9-8-13 R Street 10
9 000 BILLY BOX 14 G McCourt 6-8-12 W J O'Connor 6
10 0300 MERANTI 4 (CD,F,G) J Bradley 5-8-11 R Havlin (3) 16
11 5450 SCISSOR RIDGE 15 (D,F) J Bridger 6-8-10 N Carlisle 14
12 -000 ROCK TO THE TOP 15 J Sheehan 4-8-8 J Stack 8
13 00-0 APPLE SAUCE 17 L Cottrell 3-8-7 A Daly (3) 2
14 0006 WILL TO WIN 43 (D) P Murphy 4-8-4 R Perham 13
15 50-0 CROFT SANDS 17 J Akehurst 5-8-0 N Varley 15
16 00-0 NORLING 26 (CD,F,G) K Cunningham-Brown 8-7-13 P Fitzsimons (7) 9

4-1 Samwar, 5-1 Tinker Osmaston, 7-1 Beyond Calculation, 8-1 Maladerie, Meranti, Scissor Ridge, 10-1 Matoaka, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Jarvis, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; W G M Turner, 5 from 16, 31.3%; M Pipe, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J Gosden, 11 from 48, 22.9%; Lord Huntingdon, 12 from 60, 20.0%; J Dunlop, 21 from 119, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: D Sweeney, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; R Havlin, 4 from 20, 20.0%; T Quinn, 21 from 142, 14.8%. Only qualifiers.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

6.55 The Stitcher. 7.25 Old Hush Wing. 7.55 Lagan. 8.25 Gower-Slave. 8.55 Eastern Project. 9.25 Sun Of Spring.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

6.55 FOSSWAY BUILDERS MERCHANTS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,248: 3m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 2112 DYSART O'DEA 14 (BF,S) W Kemp 7-11-10 B Powell
2 1-2F URON V 15 (F,G,S) Mrs M Jones 12-11-8 A Dobbin
3 0P-0 OUR KRIS 29 (G) M Sowersby 6-11-7 A S Smith
4 133- RED JAM JAR 46 (C,F,G) S Ball 13-11-3 K Johnson
5 1-F2 SWEET CISEAUX 5 (B,CD,F,G) P Bowen 5-11-1 W Marston
6 /6B/ TANCRED MISCHIEF 36F (F) D Barker 7-10-3 D Bentley
7 54-6 SOLOMAN SPRINGS 21 (V,F) Mrs V Ward 8-10-1 R Thornton
8 0P5- THE STITCHER 49 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-0 G Lee
9 51-6 NUNS CONE 22 (F,S) G M Moore 10-10-0 T Hogg (7)
10 F62- WAR WHOOP 49 (C,F) Miss L Russell 6-10-0 R Johnson
11 04-4 COMMANDO DANCER 14 (V) J Mackie 6-10-0 R Supple

4-1 Dysart O'Dea, 5-1 Sweet Ciseaux, 6-1 Uron V, Red Jam Jar, 7-1 The Stitcher, Nuns Cone, 8-1 War Whoop, 12-1 others.

7.25 STANLEY RACING BEST BET SERIES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,843: 2m 5f 110yd) (11)

1 521- OLD HUSH WING 24F (CD,G) P Haslam 5-12-0 A P McCoy
2 F1F- FATEHALKHAIR 15F (CD,F,G) B Ellison 6-11-12 A Dobbin
3 1-31 HUNTING SLANE 28 (F) C Grant 6-10-9 R Supple
4 21-5 SEGALA 13 (BF,G) J J O'Neill 7-10-9 R McGrath (3)
5 30-3 SILVER MINX 22 (BF,C,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-8 Mr A Dempsey (5)
6 P60- SQUIRE'S OCCASION 47F (F) R Ford 5-10-6 C Maude
7 01-5 TSANGA 15 (F) G M Moore 6-10-0 B Harding
8 565- ASTRALEON 49 (F,G) D Eddy 10-10-0 B Storey
9 1F- SPANISH VERDICT 7F (F) D Smith 11-10-0 L Cooper (7)
10 4-04 DONT FORGET CURTIS 8 (G) Mrs K Lamb 6-10-0 Miss S Lamb (7)
11 P3-6 MEADOWBURN 22 (C,F) W Reed 8-10-0 G Lee

3-1 Old Hush Wing, 7-2 Fatehalkhair, 6-1 Segala, 7-1 Hunting Slane, Silver Minx, 8-1 Spanish Verdict, 12-1 Tsanga, 14-1 others.

7.55 AUTOTOTE BET CAPTURE SYSTEM NOVICES CHASE
(£2,960: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 34-1 GLENUGIE 22 (D,F,G,S) G M Moore 7-11-5 J Callaghan
2 001- HIGHBANK 49 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5 G Lee
3 53-1 ROBARA 36 (D,F) M Barnes 8-11-5 S Taylor (3)
4 434- SHAHGRAM 197 (S) J Hubbuck 10-10-12 B Storey
5 4-PP SOMERBY 8 (F,G) I Park 11-10-12 N Smith
6 4P-F STRONG JOHN 28 (F,G) M Sowersby 10-10-12 S Durack (3)
7 /5P- VALE OF YORK 49 (F) S Clark 10-10-12 Miss R Clark (5)
8 PF4- WILD BROOK 192 R Ellison 8-10-12 A P McCoy
9 254- LAGAN 47 (BF,D,F,G) K Morgan 5-10-9 A S Smith
10 -510 MADGE MCSPLASH 8 (D,S) J Jefferson 6-10-7 E Callaghan
11 0P-F POSSTICK MILL 22 (G) I Emmerson 6-10-7 K Johnson
12 PPP- SOUND PROFIT 56P W Young 10-10-7 J Supple

11-4 Highbank, 3-1 Glenugie, 4-1 Robara, 6-1 Lagan, 7-1 Wild Brook, 12-1 Strong John, Madge McSplash, 25-1 others.

8.25 RED ONION HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,224: 2m 5f) (13)

1 P2-5 BLAIR CASTLE 7 (F,G) Miss L Russell 7-12-0 R Johnson
2 -111 GOWER-SLAVE 14 (F,G,S) P Bowen 6-11-12 W Marston
3 31-3 WISE ADVICE 28 (BF,F) M Hammond 8-11-4 B Harding
4 44U- CROSS CANNON 45 (CD,F,G,S) J Wade 12-11-3 A Dobbin
5 500- HIGHBEATH 151 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-12 Mr A Dempsey (5)
6 164- NOCATCHIM 42 (B,CD,F,G,S) K Morgan 9-10-10 A S Smith
7 F6-P CUMBERLAND BLUES 28 (CD,F,G) A J Lockwood 9-10-10 Miss A Deniel
8 405- THE TOASTER 47 (CD,F,G,S) Miss K Milligan 11-10-10 L Wyer
9 35-3 LAKE OF LOUGHREA 7 (F,G) J Mackie 8-10-3 R Supple
10 60-P BUYERS DREAM 24 (V,F,G) B Ellison 8-10-0 S Durack (3)
11 664- ANOTHER RED 46 (CD,F,S) W Raw 10-10-0 R McGrath (3)
12 536- REBEL KING 220 (C,F,G) M Barnes 8-10-0 S Taylor (3)
13 34-0 MISCHIEVOUS GIRL 8 (C,F) R Tate 10-10-0 Mrs F Needham

7-2 Gower-Slave, 6-1 Wise Advice, 7-1 Blair Castle, Highbeath, 8-1 Cross Cannon, The Toaster, Lake Of Loughrea, 10-1 others.

8.55 ALPHAMERIC NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,338: 2m 1f) (9)

1 51-4 OVAHANDY MAN 38 (B,F) J Gledson 7-11-7 B Storey
2 3-12 EASTERN PROJECT 21 (BF,F) M Hammond 4-11-4 B Harding
3 06-1 JUST LIZZIE 28 (S) R Nixon 5-11-2 A Dobbin
4 F0-P HARRY BAZZUMPED ME 28 R Johnson 7-11-0 K Johnson
5 ROSIE'S DREAM R Ford 7-11-0 C Maude
6 /P-0 TO BE THE BEST 21 (F) D Lamb 8-11-0 J Burke
7 4-1 SMART SPIRIT 10F (F) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13 G Lee
8 BARRESBO 17F C Fairhurst 4-10-11 J Callaghan
9 3 MY SALTARELLO 28 M Barnes 4-10-11 S Taylor (3)

5-4 Eastern Project, 7-2 Smart Spirit, 4-1 Just Lizzie, 8-1 My Saltarello, 10-1 Ovahandy Man, 20-1 Barresbo, 25-1 To Be The Best, 33-1 others.

9.25 BAHAMAS NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,954: 2m 5f 110yd) (12)

1 2-14 CHARNWOOD JACK 8 (F) M Todhunter 5-11-7 L Wyer
2 /PP- BRIDGE PARTY 174P J Upson 6-11-0 R Supple
3 P DERRYLINSLOCHSMITH 28 M Smith 6-11-0 N Smith
4 30-P MR CAVALLO 29 (BF) Miss L Russell 6-11-0 R Johnson
5 0-00 RUBISLAW 8 Mrs K Lamb 6-11-0 Miss S Lamb (7)
6 0-24 SUN OF SPRING 13 S Clark 8-11-0 Miss R Clark (5)
7 00-5 TEACHER 37 (V) R Allan 8-11-0 B Storey
8 5U-3 BAMBOO PIE 22 I Emmerson 8-10-9 K Johnson
9 45-4 BUDDLEIA 22 J Turner 5-10-9 J Supple
10 0P4- DELIGHTFOOL 49 R Nixon 7-10-9 A Dobbin
11 P-P5 DOUBLE BUCK 14 (S) W Kemp 6-10-9 B Powell
12 00- SPEKTRA 59 I Semple 6-10-9 A S Smith

7-4 Charnwood Jack, 5-2 Sun Of Spring, 5-1 Mr Cavallo, 7-1 Buddleia, 8-1 Teacher, 12-1 Delightfool, 33-1 Rubislaw, Bamboo Pie, 50-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Mackie, 7 winners from 17 runners, 41.2%; P Haslam, 4 from 12, 33.3%; S Ball, 4 from 13, 30.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 67 from 241, 27.8%; J Jefferson, 9 from 37, 24.3%; I Park, 7 from 29, 24.1%; P Bowen, 6 from 25, 24.0%.

JOCKEYS: G Lee, 16 winners from 70 rides, 22.9%; L Wyer, 22 from 109, 20.2%; J Supple, 12 from 72, 16.7%; N Smith, 14 from 91, 15.4%; A S Smith, 10 from 67, 14.9%; E Callaghan, 10 from 68, 14.7%; J Callaghan, 11 from 95, 11.6%.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

6.45 Java Shrine. 7.15 Arctic Courier. 7.45 Eastern Prophets. 8.15 Star Turn. 8.45 Lady Muck. 9.15 Margone.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

6.45 FULL TOSS SELLING HANDICAP SKY
(£2,889: 1m 2f 169yd) (20 runners)

1 5506 HAROLDON 3 (CD,F,G) B Palling 9-9-10 Dane O'Neill 19
2 0503 ARZANI 3 (V,CD,G) D Cosgrove 7-9-8 M Rimmer 8
3 5-05 JAVA SHRINE 17 (B,F) P Eccles 7-9-8 N Callan (7) 1
4 400- BIYA 45J D McCain 6-9-3 W J O'Connor 13
5 /05- CLEMENCY 320 M Tate 6-9-2 N Adams 18
6 10-4 ON THE GREEN 47J (B,F) B Preece 5-9-1 V Slattery 4
7 00-0 DAMISTAR 71 W Brisbourne 6-8-12 M Tebbutt 17
8 5042 DOUBLE RUSH 3 (F,S) T Mills 6-8-10 A Whelan 16
9 0-40 BORE HILL 4 M R Bosley 4-8-10 D Sweeney 2
10 4206 CRY FOR FREEDOM 15 J Pearce 3-8-10 N Day 7
11 00-0 MACARI 50 B Baugh 4-8-5 T Williams 3
12 0-62 ACQUITTAL 24 (V,BF,D,F) A Streeter 5-8-8 M Fenton 14
13 006- FUNKY 28J F Jordan 5-8-7 G Bardwell 6
14 0500 SODA POP 14 (B,F) G L Moore 4-8-4 R Brisland (7) 10
15 0/0- IRISH GROOM 320 (G) A Streeter 11-8-2 L Newton 15
16 6/00 FORMENTIERE 45 (B) J Bradley 5-8-2 D Williams (7) 20
17 0005 TONY'S MIST 14 (G,S) J Bradley 8-8-1 R Thomas (7) 11
18 450 BOSOM PAL 19 N Smith 4-8-0 J Bramhill 12
19 006- IHTIMAAM 340 (D) H Haynes 6-7-11 R Cody-Boutcher (7) 9
20 0-00 SHANTHI 11 3 Llewellyn 3-7-11 N Kennedy 5

6-1 Acquittal, 8-1 Haroldon, Java Shrine, Double Rush, 10-1 Arzani, On The Green, Gore Hill, Cry For Freedom, 14-1 others.

7.15 WATCH SECURITY HANDICAP SKY
(£2,950: 1m 6f 194yd) (8)

1 6533 ARTIC COURIER 15 (BF,F,G) D Cosgrove 7-10-0 M Rimmer 6
2 -111 SHERIFF 116J (F) J Hills 7-9-9 M Hills 7
3 4103 SLIPSTREAM 12 (BF,F) R Guest 4-9-9 Dane O'Neill 1
4 -300 MYSTIC QUEST 14 (V) K McAuliffe 4-9-4 M Fenton 8
5 00-0 HIGH JINKS 11 B Preece 3-8-6 N Adams 3
6 0036 SHAKIYR 11 (D) R Hollinshead 7-8-5 A McCarthy (3) 4
7 0040 PERTEMPS MISSION 17 J Pearce 4-8-3 G Bardwell 5
8 0045 TEREYNA 19 R Johnson Houghton 3-7-10 T Williams 2

9-4 Sheriff, 3-1 Slipstream, 9-2 Artic Courier, 6-1 Shakiyr, 8-1 Tereyna, 10-1 Pertemps Mission, 14-1 Mystic Quest, 33-1 High Jinks.

7.45 SQUARE LEG HANDICAP SKY
(£3,236: 5f) (8)

1 4503 EASTERN PROPHETS 17 (D,F,S) G Lewis 5-9-10 D Denby (7) 2
2 0-00 AMERICAN COUSIN 14 R Johnson Houghton 3-8-13 S Sanders 3
3 0-00 DIVIDE AND RULE 169 (D,F) R Hollinshead 4-8-12 A McCarthy (3) 6
4 0300 SUPERBIT 19 (B,D,F,G,S) B McMahon 6-8-11 T Quinn 7
5 5420 PETRACO 5 (C,D,F,G,S) N Smith 10-8-1 J Bramhill 5
6 0-01 WINDRUSH BOY 14 (CD,F,G) M R Bosley 8-8-1 Aimee Cook (5) 4
7 0300 CHAKRA 5 (D,F) J Bradley 4-8-1 R Ffrench 1
8 0003 SOTONIAN 12 (D) P Felgate 5-7-10 R Winston (5) 8

5-2 Windrush Boy, 3-1 Eastern Prophets, 9-2 Superbit, 11-2 Petraco, 7-1 American Cousin, 10-1 Chakra, 14-1 Sotonian, 33-1 Divide And Rule.

8.15 JOHN HOWLETT MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES SKY
(£3,688: 7f) (8)

1 0- BORDER FALCON 448 M Hammond 4-9-7 T Quinn 6
2 -452 STAR TURN 147 B Llewellyn 4-9-7 V Slattery 2
3 32 GREAT NEWS 15 (BF) I Balding 3-8-13 S Whitworth 3
4 00 HEATHYARDS HERO 15 (B) D McCain 3-8-13 W J O'Connor 1
5 00 POLISH SPIRIT 19 B Millman 3-8-13 M Fenton 7
6 THE DEALER J Toller 3-8-13 S Sanders 5
7 4 INDIA 61 (BF) L Cumani 3-8-8 R Ffrench 4
8 MAITREYA C Allen 3-8-8 G Hind 8

8-11 Great News, 7-2 India, 10-1 Star Turn, 12-1 Border Falcon, The Dealer, 16-1 Heathyards Hero, 25-1 Polish Spirit, Maitreya.

8.45 EDGBASTON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES SKY
(2-Y-O fillies: £2,490: 7f) (15)

1 AQUAMARINA B Meehan 8-7 M Tebbutt 14
2 BREEDS HILL C Wall 8-7 G Hind 9
3 00 HONEY BEE 28 R Hannon 8-7 Dane O'Neill 8
4 32 MY EMILY 14 G L Moore 8-7 T Quinn 15
5 TRUFFLE J Fanshawe 8-7 D Harrison 11
6 EN GRISAILLE M Prescott 8-3 S Sanders 13
7 FLY LIKE A BIRD S Woods 8-3 N Day 2
8 00 GOODENOUGH GIRL 14 E Wheeler 8-3 S Carson (7) 4
9 03 HEATHYARDS TIPPLE 24 D McCain 8-3 W Supple 6
10 00 JANE ANN 8 A Jarvis 8-3 D Sweeney 7
11 240 LADY MUCK 15 (B) D French Davis 8-3 P P Murphy (3) 5
12 5000 MARCH PARTY 16 J Portman 8-3 N Pollard (5) 1
13 REGAL FAN C Drew 8-3 R Winston (5) 3
14 SHERBET FIZZ N Tinkler 8-3 T Williams 12
15 3 TICKLISH 32 W Haggas 8-3 J Quinn 10

3-1 Lady Muck, 7-2 My Emily, 7-1 En Grisaille, Ticklish, 8-1 Fly Like A Bird, 12-1 Honey Bee, Regal Fan, 14-1 others.

9.15 COUNTY GROUND HANDICAP SKY
(3-Y-O: £3,785: 7f) (8)

1 0301 POSITIVE AIR 12 (G) B McMahon 9-7 T Quinn 2
2 0-20 GANDOURA 22 (V,BF) J Gosden 9-6 G Hind 7
3 6353 MOON GORGE 33 (C,D,S) W Jarvis 9-5 J Quinn 6
4 -304 MADAME CLAUDE 15 (F) J Toller 9-1 S Sanders 5
5 0016 YULARA 9 (D,G) B Meehan 8-12 M Tebbutt 8
6 0111 FRANKIE FAIR 3 (D,F,G) G L Moore 8-9 (7ex) N Callan (7) 1
7 0020 MARGONE 33 (V) G Wragg 8-7 M Hills 3
8 -100 MOUNTAIN MAGIC 19 (D,F) D Ffrench Davis 8-1 N Carlisle 4

11-4 Frankie Fair, 9-2 Moon Gorge, 5-1 Gandoura, 11-2 Positive Air, 6-1 Madame Claude, 8-1 Yulara, 10-1 Margone, 14-1 Mountain Magic.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Guest, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; G Wragg, 3 from 10, 30.0%; S Woods, 4 from 14, 28.6%; W Haggas, 3 from 12, 25.0%; J Hills, 6 from 27, 22.2%; J Pearce, 7 from 32, 21.9%; A Streeter, 5 from 23, 21.7%.

JOCKEYS: M Hills, 11 winners from 40 rides, 27.5%; G Bardwell, 11 from 65, 16.9%; D Harrison, 11 from 65, 16.9%; T Quinn, 14 from 86, 16.3%; M Rimmer, 5 from 37, 13.5%; T Sprake, 15 from 113, 13.3%; S Sanders, 6 from 60, 10.0%.

Eddery reaches half-century

PAT EDDERY reached 50 winners for the season when riding a double at York yesterday. The 11-times champion made all the running on Richard Hannon's Nanoushka in the Stanley Racing Summer Stakes, then adopted similar tactics on Young Precedent, the Peter Harris-trained gelding, in the Hearthstead Homes Handicap.

Jimmy Fortune also partnered a double aboard Tough Leader and Lucayan Indian. Tough Leader produced a determined performance in the WWAV North Stakes. Then Lucayan Indian, third in the Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot, landed odds of 11-10 on in the Gulp Conditions Stakes.

John Dunlop trained his 50th winner when Etizaaz made an impressive debut in the Complete Prodspec Maiden Stakes.

NEWBURY TOMORROW

THUNDERER

2.00 Opaque
2.30 Nasheed
3.00 Return Of Amin
3.30 WELCOME HEIGHTS (nap)
4.00 Kastaway
4.30 Dream Power

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 KASTAWAY.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 49'S HANDICAP BBC2
(£14,395: 2m) (11 runners)

101 (2) 330-164 FURTHER FLIGHT 23 (C,D,F,G,S) B Hills 12-10-0 M Hills 100
102 (5) 11132-2 MAWARED 53 (BF,CD,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 5-9-7 Pat Eddery 111
103 (11) 46-4141 PREMIER NIGHT 4 (CD,F,G) (D Courston) S Dow 5-9-4 (5ex) M Roberts 106
104 (4) 61-0124 OPAQUE 15 (D,G,S) (G Keary) W Storey 6-8-13 J Fortune 110
105 (7) 0031-51 WHITECHAPEL 29 (CD,G,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 10-8-12 J Reid 106
106 (8) 6/4150- CAPTAIN JACK 261 (B,CD,F,G) (C Smith) M Pipe 6-8-12 G Carter 98
107 (1) 20-3000 LITTLE ACORN 15 (G) (A Simpson) S C Williams 4-8-12 T Quinn 103
108 (3) 63341-0 LEVITICUS 26 (D,G) (Mrs S Worthington) T Tate 4-8-7 T Lucas 87
109 (6) -433631 SEA FREEDOM 12 (V,F,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 7-8-0 Martin Dwyer 100
110 (9) -300044 GALAPINO 8 (BF,F) (Glendale Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 5-7-11 G Bardwell 106
111 (10) 06/1015 WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 26 (C,G,S) J S Moore 6-7-10 A Nicholls (7) 100

Long handicap: Witney-De-Bergerac 7-4

BETTING: 7-2 Mawared, 5-1 Opaque, 6-1 Premier Night, Whitechapel, 7-1 Further Flight, 8-1 Sea Freedom, 10-1 Galapino, 12-1 others.

1997: GRAND CRU 6-8-10 D O'Donohoe (20-1) J Cullinan 9 ran

FORM FOCUS: Mawared neck 2nd of 7 to Henry Island in handicap at Goodwood (1m 6f, good to firm). Premier Night beat Jaceur 1¼l in 10-runner handicap at Newmarket (2m 24yd, good to firm). Opaque 2l 4th of 20 to Cyrian in handicap at Newcastle (2m 19yd, soft) with Little Acorn (3lb better off) 4¼l 7th. Whitechapel beat Pekay ½l in 13-runner amateur handicap at York (1m 3f 195yd, good to soft), previously 23l 5th of 8 to Ivor's Flutter in handicap at Sandown (2m 78yd, soft) with Galapino (5lb better off) 35l 7th. Captain Jack 28l 9th of 11 to Whitechapel (7lb worse off) in handicap at Newbury (2m, good) with Galapino (2lb worse off) 32l 10th. Sea Freedom beat Bride's Pride neck in 7-runner handicap at Chepstow (2m 2l, good to soft). Galapino 5½l 4th of 12 to Life Of Riley in handicap at Sandown (2m 78yd, good to soft).

MAWARED looks sure to go close particularly if made more use of

2.30 HALES CENTENARY MAIDEN STAKES BBC2
(2-Y-O: £5,679: 7f 64yd) (16 runners)

201 (9) AZOUZ PASHA (W Said) H Cecil 9-0 A McGlone –
202 (16) CABARET QUEST (Thurloe Thoroughbreds III) R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill –
203 (4) 3 CHARMES 17 (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 Pat Eddery 80
204 (7) COMPTON ARROW (E Penser) G A Butler 9-0 J F Egan –
205 (1) ELECTION PROMISE (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0 J Fortune –
206 (5) 0 ENNOBLE 15 (Summerdown Partnership) H Morrison 9-0 C Rutter –
207 (11) 0 GREYFIELD 57 (Paulton Bloodstock) M Channon 9-0 A Mackay –
208 (10) MOONLIGHT MONTY (Credit Income Ltd) J Dunlop 9-0 T Sprake –
209 (12) 0 PEBBLE MOON 23 (J Sims) M Jarvis 9-0 P Robinson –
210 (13) 0 SEPTEMBER HARVEST 46 (J Dunningham) B Meehan 9-0 M Tebbutt –
211 (2) 5 SPORTING LAD 43 (M Arbib) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 85
212 (8) SUDDEN SQUALL (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 J Reid –
213 (3) SWAMPY (Gallagher Equine Ltd) K McAuliffe 9-0 M Roberts –
214 (6) THOMAS HENRY (E Houghton) J S Moore 9-0 P P Murphy (3) –
215 (15) AZIHAAM (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 8-9 R Perham –
216 (14) NASHEED (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-9 G Carter –

BETTING: 5-2 Azouz Pasha, 7-2 Charmes, 6-1 Sporting Lad, 7-1 Nasheed, 8-1 Election Promise, 10-1 Sudden Squall, 14-1 Azihaam, 16-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS: Azouz Pasha Lyphard colt out of a lightly-raced mare. Charmes 7¾l 3rd of 7 to Mister Inthebristler in 2yo maiden stakes at Newcastle (7f, good). Election Promise Mujtahid colt, half-brother to useful Cadeaux Tryst. Ennoble 16l 7th of 11 to Tayil in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (7f, good). Greyfield 11l 14th of 20 to Hard Lines in 2yo maiden stakes at Newbury (6f 8yd, good to firm). Moonlight Monty Elmaamul colt, half-brother to several winners including Ribot's Pearl. Pebble Moon 15l last of 7 to Black Amber in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (6f, good). September Harvest 11l 10th of 11 to Kaamen in 2yo maiden stakes at Newbury (5f 34yd, good to firm). Sporting Lad 2¾l 5th of 10 to Agreeable in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). Sudden Squall Gulch colt out of Sudden Storm Bird. Azihaam Cozzene filly, half-sister to winning sprinter Masafah. Nasheed Riverman filly, half-sister to 7f winner Alharir.

AZOUZ PASHA is held in high regard and can make a winning debut

3.00 LADBROKE RATED HANDICAP BBC2
(£12,892: 6f 8yd) (18 runners)

301 (12) -422154 CARRANITA 38 (D,F,G,S) (H Okeke & Mrs R Davies) B Palling 8-9-7 T Sprake 115
302 (7) 0-10000 PROUD NATIVE 16 (D,F,G,S) (P Savill) D Nicholls 4-9-4 Alex Greaves 108
303 (9) 30-0100 TIPSY CREEK 15 (B,D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 4-9-3 J Fortune 105
304 (4) -842006 BRAVE EDGE 8 (D,F,G) (Hornis Vale Racing) R Hannon 7-9-2 Pat Eddery 100
305 (6) 44-0100 EASTERN PURPLE 8 (D,F,S) (T Chiang) R Fahey 3-9-1 R Winston (5) 107
306 (15) 605101- JANIB 255 (F) (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 4-9-1 R Perham 100
307 (17) 0-04502 DANCETHENIGHTAWAY 23 (F,S) (G Bosley) B Meehan 4-9-1 J Reid 109
308 (11) 600200- EMERGING MARKET 288 (D,F) (P Wroughton) J Dunlop 6-9-1 G Carter 100
309 (5) 0004-10 TRIPLE HAY 23 (D,F,G) (Broadgate Partnership) R Hannon 4-9-1 Dane O'Neill 116
310 (10) -806162 RETURN OF AMIN 15 (D,S) (Sheikh A Dahlawi) J Bethell 4-9-0 J Weaver 111
311 (3) 0-64306 THE PUZZLER 12 (CD,G,S) (Lady Richard Wellesley) B Hills 7-8-13 M Hills 103
312 (18) 5-00500 LAW COMMISSION 3 (D,F,G) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 8-8-11 N Pollard (5) 101
313 (8) 135-332 THANKSGIVING 31 (BF,G) (Mrs G Maxwell) D Chappell 3-8-11 A McGlone 109
314 (13) 3102-11 LITERARY SOCIETY 20 (CD,F,G) (Lady Celina Carter) J Toller 5-8-10 S Sanders 101
315 (16) 4121-0 SURVEYOR 64 (BF,D,F,G) (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 3-8-9 T Quinn 97
316 (1) -152301 NIGHT SHOT 22 (G,S) (J Smith) I Balding 3-8-8 Martin Dwyer 106
317 (14) -000031 JAYANNPEE 29 (CD,F,G,S) (I Balding) I Balding 7-8-7 Leanne Masterton (7) 108
318 (2) 220155- LIKELY STORY 296 (D,S) (M Page) J Dunlop 3-8-3 J Quinn 101

Long handicap: Jayannpee 8-6

BETTING: 5-1 Literary Society, 6-1 Dancethenightaway, 7-1 Night Shot, 8-1 Tipsy Creek, 12-1 Carranita, Eastern Purple, Thanksgiving, Surveyor, Jayannpee, 14-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS: Carranita 4l 4th of 5 to Tipsy Creek (6lb worse off) in stakes at Haydock (6f, good). Brave Edge 6¼l 6th of 11 to Fire Dome in stakes (listed) at Sandown (5f 6yd, good) with Eastern Purple (levels) 8¼l 7th. Dancethenightaway neck 2nd of 29 to Selhurstpark Flyer in handicap at Ascot (6f, good to soft). Return Of Amin neck 2nd of 15 to Gaelic Storm in handicap at Newcastle (6f, soft). The Puzzler 7¼l 6th of 10 to Divine Miss-P in handicap at Chepstow (5f 16yd, good to soft). Literary Society beat Taoiste 1l in 6-runner stakes at Yarmouth (6f 3yd, good). Surveyor 2¾l 7th of 20 to Fill Magic in 3yo handicap at Lingfield (6f, good to firm). Night Shot beat Jay Gee short head in 16-runner 3yo handicap at Ascot (5f, good). Jayannpee beat Tinker Osmaston neck in 9-runner handicap at Bath (5f 161yd, good to soft).

JAYANNPEE has returned to form and is very well handicapped

3.30 THE MAIL ON SUNDAY MILE HANDICAP BBC2
(Qualifier: £7,230: 1m) (14 runners)

401 (2) 04-2430 RUSSIAN MUSIC 60 (D,F) (Seventh Heaven) Miss G Kelleway 5-10-0 Pat Eddery 100
402 (1) -431023 THERHEA 8 (CD,G,S) (R Gudge, C Lewis & M Calvert) B Millman 5-9-4 A Whelan 108
403 (11) 00-0654 YEAST 16 (D,F,S) (B Haggas) W Haggas 6-9-4 P Robinson 100
404 (8) 4/25-06 TARSKI 18 (F) (E Gadsden & Mrs M Fairburn) L Cottrell 4-9-4 M Roberts 96
405 (14) 20-0024 SUGARFOOT 25 (G) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 4-9-3 J Reid 107
406 (6) -000451 LA MODISTE 14 (D,F,G,S) (Winning Line) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-1 J F Egan 114
407 (9) 0d11213 SILK ST JOHN 18 (BF,D,F,G) (C R S Partners) M Ryan 4-9-1 R Cochrane 107
408 (4) 31000-1 HURTLEBERRY 38 (D,F,G,S) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-0 Aimee Cook (5) 100
409 (7) 000-006 WELTON ARSENAL 11 (F,G) (Paulton Bloodstock) K Bishop 6-8-13 N Pollard (5) 101
410 (3) 40F0-16 VIRTUAL REALITY 46 (D,F,G) (Ash Partnership) J Toller 7-8-11 S Sanders 102
411 (13) 000-003 SAIFAN 10 (B,D,F,G) (D Morris) D Morris 9-8-10 J Weaver 99
412 (12) 0-05621 COLWAY RITZ 9 (D,G) (R Coleman) W Storey 4-8-7 J Fortune 104
413 (5) 1-36100 WELCOME HEIGHTS 14 (D,G,S) M Fetherston-Godley 4-7-12 F Norton 113
414 (10) 250-060 CHEROKEE FLIGHT 13 (F) (Silver Knight Ltd) S Mellor 4-7-11 J Quinn 100

BETTING: 9-2 Hurtleberry, 5-1 La Modiste, 7-1 Therhea, Colway Ritz, 8-1 Russian Music, Silk St John, 10-1 Yeast, 12-1 others.

1997: PHONETIC 4-9-0 R Price (25-1) G Balding 17 ran

FORM FOCUS: Therhea 2l 3rd of 13 to For Your Eyes Only in handicap at Sandown (1m 14yd, good to soft), previously 1¾l 2nd of 7 to Ben Gunn in handicap at Salisbury (1m, good to firm) with Silk St John (2lb better off) 1¾l 3rd and Tarski (7lb better off) 10l 6th. Yeast 4l 4th of 5 to Edan Heights in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2l, good). Sugarfoot 4¾l 4th of 32 to Refuse To Lose in handicap at Ascot (1m, good to soft). La Modiste beat Bowcliffe 2l in 21-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good) with Welcome Heights (6lb better off) 7¾l 9th. Hurtleberry beat Bollin Frank 3¼l in 15-runner handicap at Haydock (1m 30yd, good) with Tarski (14lb better off) 11l 7th, previously 3¾l 9th of 28 to Consort in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) with Silk St John (4lb better off) 4¾l 13th, Welton Arsenal (18lb better off) 7½l 17th and Saifan (17lb better off) 47l last. Welton Arsenal 7¼l 6th of 14 to Amber Fort in handicap at Kempton (7f, good to soft). Virtual Reality 7½l 6th of 14 to Knobbleeneeze in handicap at Newbury (7f 64yd, good). Saifan 3¾l 3rd of 20 to Senor Hurst in claiming stakes at Yarmouth (1m 3yd, good). Colway Ritz beat Lucky Archer 1l in 9-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 100yd, good). Cherokee Flight 22l 9th of 12 to Lady Rockstar in stakes at Windsor (1m 2f 7yd, good).

CHEROKEE FLIGHT could spring a surprise if the rains arrive

4.00 NEWBURY RACECOURSE GOLF CLUB CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £6,710: 5f 34yd) (4 runners)

501 (1) 111221 KASTAWAY 27 (D,F,S) (D Winter) J Berry 9-7 G Carter 108
502 (2) 11104 INYA LAKE 8 (D,S) (B Mavey) M Channon 9-3 A Mackay 101
503 (3) 163115 SNAP CRACKER 8 (D,S) (J Miller) M Quinn 9-0 F Norton 97
504 (4) 023201 AEGEAN FLAME 6 (D,G) (Theobalds Stud) K Ivory 8-11 J Fortune 96

BETTING: 11-10 Kastaway, 9-4 Inya Lake, 5-1 Snap Cracker, 6-1 Aegean Flame.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

4.30 ROGER BRANT BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,469: 1m 4f 5yd) (11 runners)

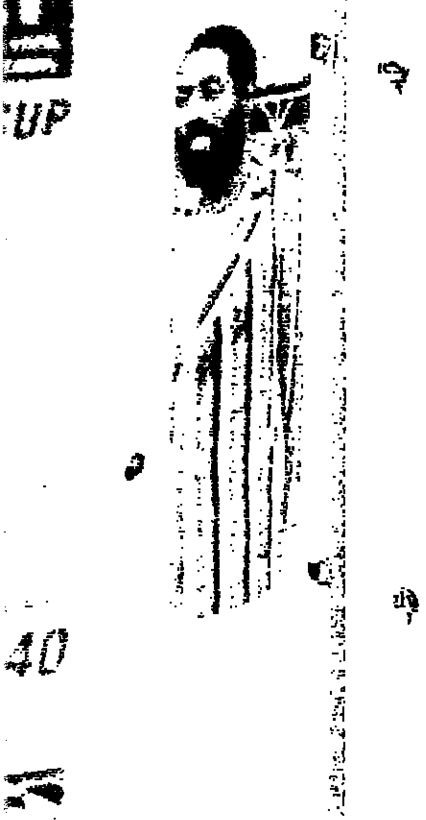
601 (5) 022 DREAM POWER 20 (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Jarvis 9-0 P Robinson 108
602 (6) 0036 KING OF MOMMUR 9 (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 9-0 Pat Eddery 87
603 (9) 05 MANE FRAME 18 (A, J & M Arbib) H Morrison 9-0 C Rutter 79
604 (10) 3325203 MANSA MUSA 12 (Surrey Laminators Ltd) M Channon 9-0 T Quinn 86
605 (8) 032455 PERADVENTURE 11 (BF) (M Pescod) R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill 89
606 (4) 0-3 ROY 43 (D T M Partnership) H Morrison 9-0 T Sprake 76
607 (2) 04 WENDY'S DAY 12 (Uplands Bloodstock) S E H Sherwood 9-0 R Perham 85
608 (3) 24 APRIL STOCK 8 (Mrs M Fairbairn) Miss G Kelleway 8-9 N Pollard (5) 70
609 (1) 6 APRIL TREASURE 15 (W Donohue) J Spearing 8-9 J Fortune 65
610 (11) 45 MOLA 14 (Greenbay Stables Ltd) Mrs J Cecil 8-9 Martin Dwyer 70
611 (7) 23 RAQQASA 14 (BF) (Lord H De Walden) H Cecil 8-9 A McGlone 80

BETTING: 5-2 Raqqasa, 4-1 Dream Power, 6-1 April Stock, 7-1 King Of Mommur, Peradventure, 8-1 Mansa Musa, Mola, 16-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	32	126	25.4	J Reid	48	290	16.6
H Cecil	16	88	18.2	T Quinn	37	272	13.6
Miss G Kelleway	7	45	15.6	J Weaver	6	55	10.9
E Dunlop	4	29	13.8	M Hills	20	187	10.7
S Dow	6	47	12.8	A Whelan	3	28	10.7
B Hanbury	6	47	12.8	Pat Eddery	26	260	10.0



Beerbaum holds the whip hand


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Beerbaum is arguably the finest showjumper in the world and has ridden many fine horses, such as Champion du Lys

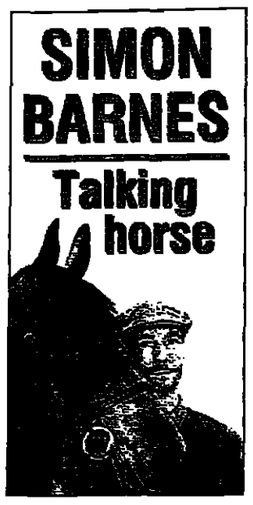


'Ratina doesn't like to be controlled. You must have control — but she needs to be free'



SIMON BARNES

Talking horse



It is a little like going through the looking-glass. It all seems frightfully calm in the main ring at Hickstead at the Royal International Horse Show: under control. The vast arena gives the rider a huge amount of space. Clearly it is a frightening and rather lonely business.

It is only when you turn the other way that you complete your understanding. The area where the horses and riders warm up before they enter the ring is cramped, and crowded with horses and riders, all with their nerves on edge. A rider's edginess *communicates* itself to the horse and the horse's tension comes through to the rider.

Riders' nerviness affects other riders; horses' jumpiness affects other horses. Horses are swift, intuitive creatures, lightning fast at picking up the nuances of behaviour — of each other and of the humans around them.

Step farther back behind the scenes and the tensions are less dramatic, just as palpable. At any one day of the show, there will be 4,000 horses at the showground and for most of the horses and riders, this is one of the great days of their lives.

Behind the endless fleet of horseboxes and trailers lies the permanent stabling. Here, 1,200 horses await their competitive destiny. Horses are always a little anxious away from their home yards, always stimulated by each other's company. Here is a massive temporary herd. Humans and horses desperately eager to get on with the life-affirming business of sorting out the dominance hierarchy. Who gives way to whom?

It is the first thing on the agenda. I have watched zebras in gatherings just as large: stallions exchanging elaborate, courteous greetings, occasionally a spat within groups. It is an edgy, yet a very orderly scene. Hickstead had something of the same feel.

It is easy to see that the ability to keep your head is important here: not just to jump over the fences, but to enter the ring in a mood of sensible urgency. Competing on horseback is not about avoiding the tensions: it is *about using them.*

Every horse you set eyes on is a knockout, but this one was something special, even by the standards of the great herd of Hickstead. Grey, entire — that is to say, a stallion — and energy like a coiled spring. You needed to see him take a total of about two strides to realise how fit and well he was — positively glowing.

The rider looked half-asleep. Just sitting there, apparently fidgeting ever-so-slightly with his hands. This is comunication at a high level, a constant interplay of messages between horse and rider, a constant stream of corrections that come in before the fault has been committed.

It was a tiny vignette and it spoke of a fine horse, Champion du Lys, and a fine rider. In fact, the rider is more than fine. He is *probably the best showjumper in* the world right now. This is Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, a man whose CV would make an ambitious youngster despair.

He has a trunkful of Olympic medals and all of them gold. In 1988, he was the star in Germany's team victory, riding what was virtually a chance ride; it is by their handling of chance rides that you can tell the very best riders.

He took team and individual gold in 1992 and team gold again in 1996; his horse went lame for the individual competition. He is a member of the team that holds the Olympic, world and European championships. And he is only now truly coming into his own.

His top horse is a mare called Ratina and he rides her in the Trax Data King George V Cup tomorrow. I always have a special respect for people who bring the best from mares. When a male horse commits a fault, it is often a challenge to his rider and he needs — I think it is fair to say, wants — a correction. Male horses live in a world of constant challenge, constant restatement of dominance.

But when a mare commits a fault, what she needs, what she wants, is forgiveness. Believe me, I am not being anthropomorphic. If you bully a mare, she will sulk. If you believe in a mare, and forgive her when appropriate, she will give you her best.

Ratina brought Beerbaum close to despair. "It took us a long time to be a good couple," he said. We were sitting, watching the tense contraflow system of the collecting ring, sipping some rather good coffee. Around us competitors sat, drinking their *caffe latte* and trying to be relaxed. Beerbaum, it is clear at once, has the knack of being easy in himself. It is a priceless attribute in horsey competition.

"I changed the bits back and forth, changed the way I worked with her," he said. "I changed the length of my stirrups, I rode longer, then I rode shorter, then I rode longer. And it did not work. I began to doubt my system. I went to bed, *but she did not make sleep* come easy."

It is the world's most frustrating thing: to know that you have a horse with immense talent, but to be unable to channel it. It is the way to build up a closed feedback system of self-doubt. Every wrong thing leads to another wrong thing.

This is hard enough when the horse is your own, but when your horse is owned by someone else, and you are supposed to be the genius, it is doubly difficult. The change came when Beerbaum acquired Ratina for himself. "The pressure was off," he said. "I went slow, stopped trying to push her so hard. And it was, perhaps, the *most important time in my whole* career. It was not strategy. It just happened. It was really just more gentle handling. I was trying to be too German, trying to ride her as if she is a German horse.

"But I understood that she does not like to be controlled. You must go forward, you must have control — but she needs to be free. And when you have reached an understanding — they will fight for you these, mares. Because they are tough, they are tougher than geldings, tougher than stallions."

Horsepower is the secret of all the horsey sports: you cannot go without the horse. But it is the way you organise, control, channel your horsepower that makes the ultimate difference. In the ring, in the fleeting seconds in the big arena where things are decided, it is the spring of the horse, the carefulness of the horse, the willingness of the horse, that turns clear rounds into gold.

But these scrambled seconds on the edge of control are set up in the training yards, *by training methods*, by the rhythms of stable routine, by the hands on the reins in the schooling ring. By care, by thought. And by worry.

Most people who have a horse *have lain awake worrying.* It is nice to know that this is also the way that the best in the world operate. It is nice to know that nocturnal angst can turn out to be pure gold.

Biking at the

Hughan Freeman

BMW gets ugly fast

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BMW AG MUNICH

Among the BMW anniversary exhibits is the streamlined 1937 R37, which took the land-speed record to 173mph on an autobahn

Biking's golden years at the Guggenheim

Motorcycles have arrived as a design icon, with the launch of a major New York show. David Lancaster reports

The motorcycle has come to mean many things to many people. For its pioneers, it was the most glamorous of steeds — faster than a horse, lighter and cheaper than a car. Later on, for the daredevil racers and wall-of-death riders of the Twenties and Thirties, it was the prophet that would whisk them to fame, fortune and an exemption from military service.

In the latter half of this century, the motorcycle finally came of age: today is everything from the essential mount of the outlaw biker to the chosen commuting mode for rich city boys. The journey from steam-driven bicycle to yuppie toy has been long, arduous and never less than fascinating.

Now, for the first time, a serious exhibition venue — the Guggenheim Museum in New York — has staged an exhibition about motorcycles. It aims to show all that is best and plenty that is worst, about the motorbike. Sponsored by BMW (on its 75th anniversary) and designed by Frank Gehry (architect of the Guggenheim in Bilbao, where the exhibition moves this summer), the Art of the Motorcycle explores the cultural and technological progress of one of the century's most enigmatic vehicles.

More than 100 bikes are displayed in the most dramatic fashion the museum's famous rising circle (fittingly reminiscent of a wall of death). They range from the wild and dangerous early prototypes, one of which carries the steam cylinders of the engine in its wheels, to the latest high-tech marques, such as the reborn MV Augusta, whose F4 was loaned by King Juan Carlos of Spain.

The beginnings for the motorcycle were inauspicious, and — bizarrely — French. A skinny model called the Micheaux-Perreaux of 1868 represents the first gasp of life of a vehicle which, as the exhibition shows, has transformed itself in just 130 years. The charm of this, and other early attempts, is not merely the basic and skeletal construction, but the wonder that anyone persevered with the idea: it looks, and was, dangerous and unstable. A horse, by contrast, was known, trusted and reliable.

National prejudices and attitudes are marked in every thread and bolt of the bikes. Harleys and Indians (Harley's technologically superior rivals until the Fifties) express a languid, laidback take on the open road — America, after all, demands little in the way of lithe, tight cornering, but much in the way of comfort and durability.

By contrast the Italians have from the start built small, pert bikes — ideal for the hairpins of the Alps, useless for Route 66. The British are there in numbers — Triumph, BSA, Norton — but here the Empire, which sustained our motorcycle industry, is seen to run on typically rugged machines, often coaxed on for another season by another crude engine enlargement and ridiculous paint scheme. There are exceptions: the Vincent Black Shadow from 1954 shows what Britain could achieve, though at a cost, and race bikes from the smaller concerns, such as AJS's supercharged E-95 racer, tell a familiar tale of an industry rich in invention, but lacking in investment.

BMW is the focus of much attention at the Guggenheim, not always for the right reasons. Sponsoring an exhibition full of your rivals is a risk, and some tongues wagged, but there is no denying the rightful inclusion of machines like the world speed record-breaking ultra-streamlined R37, which reached a remarkable 173mph on a closed-off autobahn in 1937, nor the businesslike, but super-fast R90S from 1973.

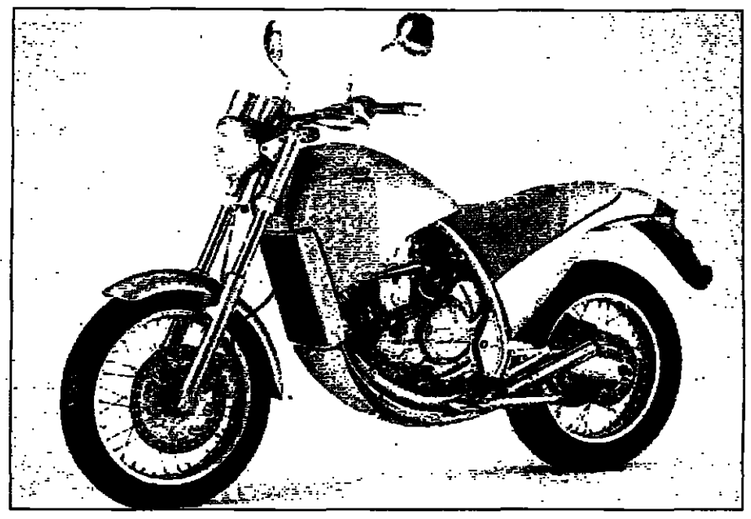
From the Seventies onwards, the motorcycle seems to have reached a plateau; progress since then has been subtle rather than dramatic, with Honda's CB750 of 1970 having disc brakes, overhead camshafts for high revving, and a standard off-the-shelf top speed of over 120mph — rather like any Japanese sports bike now.



Designer urban toys, such as the Philippe Starck-designed Aprilia 6.5 — a grey and orange affair, wrapped around a single-cylinder engine — perhaps show more of the future for the motorbike. When everything in the showroom can do 150mph, it is increasingly important to look different at 50mph.

In an hour the visitor can see more important and glamorous motorcycles than have ever been under one roof before. The film show is, unfortunately, a loop of disappointing excerpts from overrated films like *Easy Rider*. But nevertheless, when the show reaches Spain later this year, load up the bike and take a look for yourself.





Clockwise from top: exhibition features media and advertising exhibits such as this picture of Cary Grant on his Harley Davidson. Modern Aprilia, designed by Phillipe Starck, shows a possible way forward for motorcycle styling. The 1908 Belgian FN shows nothing is new: with four cylinders and belt drive, it is what you might expect of a modern bike

Vaughan Freeman finds the new Z3 Coupé a powerful package under dodgy skin

BMW gets ugly fast

BMW hatched its M Coupé Z3 in secrecy, styled by a five-strong group of designers who met after work to create a car aimed at paying homage to classic coupés such as the Jaguar E-type.

They threw out computer-design techniques and reverted to plasticine-and-rod models to turn the beautiful Z3 soft-top roadster into the M Coupé — a hard-top sportster with improved roadholding and handling.

The result to many will look like an ugly duckling at the traffic lights, but this lounging, snouted car, with what looks like a family hatchback bolted on the rear, turns into a high performing beauty on the move.

Thong, long nose boasts dramatically arched wheel arches and chrome-plated engine louvres. The back, though, disappears into that strange hunchback which sprouts not two or three, but four chromed exhausts.

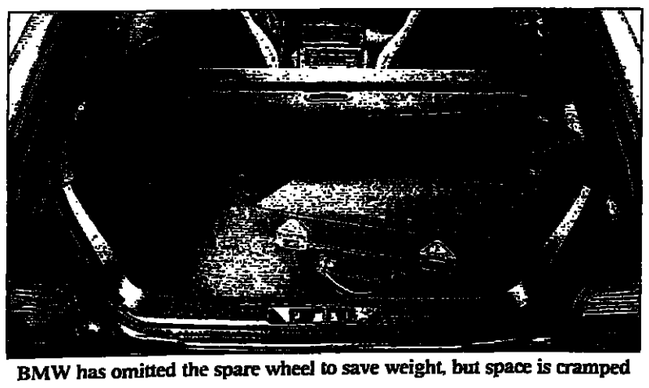
Even the car's special project manager, Dr Burkhard Goschel, admits: "Some people within BMW who saw it were thrilled. Others were, well, a bit more reserved in their reactions.

"We had a long debate about the car's looks and there were extreme opinions. Certainly the looks of the car mean that you either love the car at first sight or you hate it." Looks apart, though the "M" stamped all over the vehicle speaks volumes about BMW's ambitions for the car.

BMW's M division was born out of its motorsport activities, and has specialised in building rare, unusual cars as phenomenal in their performance as they are radical in their looks.



Long snout boasts chromed louvres and dramatically flared arches, but it is all let down by the hunched back



BMW has omitted the spare wheel to save weight, but space is cramped

The M Coupé's 3.2-litre plant puts out 321bhp, one of the very few cars to break the magic 100bhp-per-litre barrier. A look in the boot confirms its intent: to save weight the M Coupé is the first BMW ever without a spare wheel.

That power gives a top speed of 155mph, and a 0-60mph time of just over five seconds. Those figures are the same as the soft-top Roadster, but what makes the M Coupé so dramatic to drive is its cornering.

The stiff steel roof, 17in alloy wheels and wide, wide Michelin tyres give the car prodigious roadholding.

Acceleration, in almost any gear, is quite extraordinary, matched by a vibrant engine note that will result in even the most mature motorist blipping the accelerator at the lights.

The Z3 arrives here in October, with most of the 250 allocated for 1998 already taken. Apart from its rarity value, looks and performance, it is the price of £41,000 that makes the M Coupé such a startling car.

BMW Z3 COUPE

ENGINE; 3.2 litre, 321bhp, 24-valve straight-six, driving rear wheels through five-speed manual gearbox.
PERFORMANCE; Top speed 155mph; 0-60mph, 5.2 seconds.
ECONOMY; Urban, 17mpg; extra urban 36mpg; combined 25.4mpg.
EQUIPMENT; Dual front airbags, side airbags, CD player, anti-lock brakes, remote control, central locking and engine immobiliser, power-assisted steering and brakes.
PRICE; £41,000.

This sort of acceleration, handling and performance is normally only to be had from cars such as the Porsche 911 Carrera, which costs £22,000 more.

The driving position is cosy and efficient. The short gearlever sprouts from a wide transmission tunnel, the pedals are slightly offset, and the dials, ringed with polished chrome, easy to read.

The boot, though, is far from capacious despite the lack of spare wheel, offering space for a few golf clubs, or a couple of weekend stuff bags.

Cycling to work is definitely hinged

Angus Clarke discovers that his commuting future has folded

If you are the self-conscious type, the Strida 2 might not be the best bike to go for. My progress around the streets of Brighton seemed to provoke mirth and what passes for wit among the town's shambling youth. I assumed that remarks such as "Oi, beam me up Scotty," were inspired by the Strida's futuristic looks rather than my own.

Another problem is the torrent of more or less technical questions from inquisitive cycle-fanatics: how do the brakes work? What are the gear ratios? What does it weigh? What does it cost? What are the wheels made of? The answers are: drum brakes fore and aft; there aren't any gears; 10kg; £285 ex VAT; nylon.

The bike's maker, Roland Plastics of Woodbridge, Suffolk, describes the Strida 2 as designed to link with other forms of transport. You can fold it down quickly and simply to fit into a taxi, car boot or train (even the jam-packed London-Brighton trains). On arrival you can unfold it and ride away within 15 seconds.

In addition to its convenience and extraterrestrial elegance, the Strida 2 runs quietly. Instead of a conventional chain, which needs oiling, adjusting and keeping away from your clothes, it is driven by a toothed belt. It is also surprisingly manoeuvrable at all speeds.

The brakes are effective, even in heavy rain. The construction and materials promise minimal maintenance.

Such lightness and foldability do require compromises, however. The ride takes a few minutes' getting used to, possibly because the wheels are not aligned precisely, as on a conventional bike, and partly because the steering feels light and twitchy.

One colleague so disconcerted himself by riding the mile from the *Times* office to London Bridge Tube station that he needed a spirituous restorative, and returned in a taxi, bike and all.

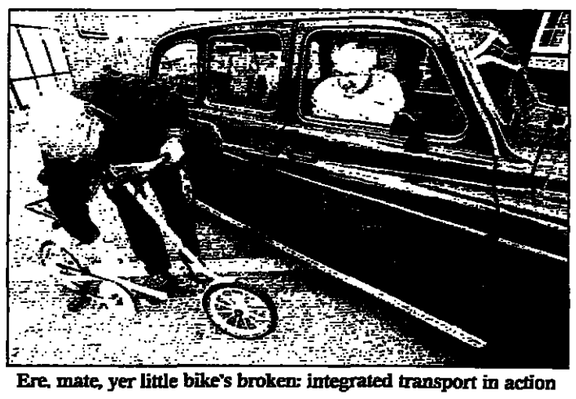
The unusual alignment of the wheels, or perhaps a tendency for rain to be carried by the belt drive, means that in wet weather you get a fine spray of water on the inside of your right thigh, which may not be to everyone's taste.

Size matters where the Strida is concerned. Geometrical inevitability means the higher you set the saddle, the closer your knees come to the handlebar. The makers reckon, over-optimistically, that the bike can be ridden by people of any height up to 6ft3. I am 5ft10 and could not raise the saddle high enough to pedal efficiently without banging my knees on my knuckles.

That is not much of a problem for short distances on the flat, but does matter on hills — which is also when you regret the lack of gears. This is not a macho thing: toughing it up hills in the wrong gear cripples your knees.

It all adds up to being a light, beautifully designed and genuinely usable machine for a person (of not more than average height) planning to cycle short flat distances between other forms of transport, and for whom easy foldability is more important than having a true commuting bike.

● **Strida 2**
Unfolded: 100cm x 125cm x 48cm:
Folded: 115cm x 55cm x 48cm.
Further information from Roland Plastics, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0QZ (01728-747 777).



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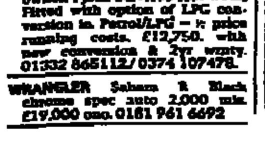
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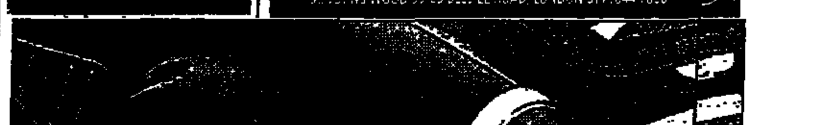
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مكذا من الأصل

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Glenda Jackson's big idea, the Integrated Transport Policy, misses one important point: the last Government privatised all the transport

Spluttering won't clear congestion

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

I don't know about you, but I can hardly sleep at night for the excitement over the Integrated Transport Strategy. Glenda Jackson, the junior minister who would run the buses if they had not all been privatised by the Tories, said in the Commons this week that the Integrated Transport Strategy would be out soon and it would be the first for 20 years. Wow.

Of course everyone remembers the last Integrated Transport Strategy, it was the one that introduced . . . didn't it have that thing about . . . you know, the um . . . well anyway it produced the situation we have today, so obviously it must have been, what's the word? Hopeless. Never mind, onward and upward. Over the next hill.

My colleague, Matthew Parris, wrote in his political sketch on Wednesday that he was unclear as to the nature of an Integrated Transport Strategy: animal, vegetable or mineral, he wanted to know. Was it an argument, a plan or an invention?

I can answer these and other questions because my political lobbyist, Rupert Coat-Tail, has been plying Those In The Know with Big Macs and Coke (that's the drink) on my behalf.

Rupert reports: "This Integrated Transport Policy is coming out in the form of a White Paper and it's going to be a fantastic document that will revolutionise/slightly improve/make worse/ not alter at all/ transport in this country. It may/ will/won't mean an end to traffic jams in the major cities and will do for the bicycle, the bus and the pony and trap what the inflatable tyre did for the Model T Ford.

"One thing that will definitely/ probably/possibly be brought in is the graduated road-fund licence, where people in large cities pay more to tax their cars than people in rural areas.

"This will mean that all the people who now live in London will move to the Home Counties and drive back in to work every day, thus, er, increasing the amount of traffic in London by day but leaving the capital empty at night.

"That last paragraph may sound confusing: I think some sauce from a burger dropped on my notes but I am quite/fairly certain that the Government's answer to the claim that more people commuting will mean more cars in London will be a huge extension to park-and-ride schemes.

"The land provisionally set aside for the widening of the M25 to 20 lanes in each direction will now be compulsorily purchased for a car-park the size of Switzerland. The Government will hold a golden share in a new bus company that will ferry people into and out of London, 24 hours a day."

Well thank you very much Rupert, do pop round to Paddington Station and collect the brown envelope from the roof of the third telephone box from the left opposite platform three. But of course, Rupert is only one of the army of consultants working for this column and I learn from others that congestion is by no means the only matter that the Integrated Transport Strategy will deal with. Pollution is the other big issue.

Sadly the Government's forthcoming policy on vehicles that pollute has been pre-empted by a Tory, of all people. Ann Winterton, MP for Congleton, said in the Commons on Tuesday that toxic emissions came "mostly from older cars owned by the less well-off". These people, she said, should be "encouraged to buy new cars".

John Prescott must be hopping mad. You can imagine how keen he had been to be the first to announce that he and Glenda would soon be knocking on the doors of the working classes telling them to go to the nearest car showroom and sign up for a £15,000 motor.

The disabling contradiction of the Integrated Transport Strategy is that there is nothing to integrate. The problem used to be that public transport (bus and rail) was not properly integrated with private transport (cars and lorries).

There were two ways out: the hard way and the easy way. The Tories took the easy way, by making public transport private.

So now, bus, rail, car and lorry all compete in the private sector, beyond the control of any government except through punitive taxation. That is why the Integrated Transport Policy is not a policy about transport, it is a policy about taxation. Just you wait.

How stars can scar your car

Celebrities sell motors, but they can also be a disaster, says **Joe Warwick**



Ford are happy to see the rich and famous such as DJ Zoe Ball driving their cars

Parasitic or symbiotic, self-serving or mutually beneficial, the relationship between celebrities and carmakers is as old as the combustion engine. And like the engine, it has evoved into a complex beast.

BMW is currently in a dilemma over what to with the navy-blue 528i coupé it lent to Diana, Princess of Wales.

The car, which the Princess had on short-term loan, is sitting somewhere in a secure company site. BMW has abandoned its original plan to crush the car fearing adverse public reaction.

It may now go on display, but BMW finds itself in a similar position to rivals Mercedes, which has the Princess's SL320 (her first foreign car and the cause of a row at the time) under guard at its Stuttgart HQ. Both carmakers are anxious to avoid a situation where the cars, like the Ford Escort the Princess owned in her first months of marriage, ends up on the open market.

Last month the humble Escort was being auctioned on the internet, with rumours circulating that it could end up as a prize in a Las Vegas casino.

Such is the tightrope that carmakers walk when they embark on the potentially lucrative course of having a public figure endorse their wares.

Having a high-profile celebrity buy one of your cars means countless photo opportunities — and another car sold. Witness David Beckham pictured with Posh in his Porsche. Having the product speak through the patronage of the rich and famous is a privileged position enjoyed by makers of luxury cars such as Porsche, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Aston Martin and Ferrari.

The niche-market makers do not need the media attention that larger manufacturers seek by lending cars to celebrities.

They always refuse such requests because they do not have to sell cars in big numbers. As one spokesperson for a specialist importer put it, "Celebrities think that they are a lot more valuable to us than they are."

Ford sees it differently. Celebrity endorsement is a valuable part of its marketing strategy, though it stresses: "We do not part with our money, we don't pay anybody to drive our cars." They receive requests from celebrities to borrow certain cars and if they feel the car and the personality have a compatible profile, the car is lent out for anything from two weeks to a year.

So DJ's Zoe Ball and Jo Whiley drive Pumas and Ross Kemp (Grant from *EastEnders*) drives an Explorer.

There are apparently no formal agreements. "At the end of the day we don't ask for X number of appearance days," says the company. "If members of the public see Zoe Ball parking her Puma — that to us is added value. A lot of other companies will stipulate a lot of other things." A spokesman for one of those other companies is more ambivalent about such informal arrangements. "It's very difficult to monitor what they are doing with your car. I have heard stories where cars aren't treated very well. You might give a car to someone for a year and get one little piece back," he says.

BIG PICTURES



Would you want Stan Collymore linked to your marque?

When celebrities actually buy a certain car, it guarantees publicity, but as Chris Willows, public affairs manager at BMW explains, such direct endorsements are restrictive. "When it comes to celebrities we feel duty-bound not to disclose details because that is the way we deal with our customers," he says.

In addition, manufacturers are bound by the Data Protection Act not to do so.

If it does emerge through the media that say, Liam Gallagher has bought a Bristol, then fair enough, but companies cannot be seen to reveal such news.

Then again, carmakers would prefer it to remain unknown that certain celebrities drive their cars. Stan Collymore, the footballer, has suddenly become labelled unreliable, volatile and past his prime. Can anybody at Mercedes be pleased when they read that he drives an SL320?

BIG PICTURES



BMW is in a quandary over the car it lent to Diana, Princess of Wales: plans to crush the car have been shelved for fear of causing a public outcry

Skipper puts fun in funky

John Naish finds Piaggio's junior boy-racer more than a stylist's toy

DISCUSSIONS with fellow riders over the years have revealed that many of us become sufficiently inspired by the joys of biking to burst into song while on the Queen's Highway (full-face helmets are an acoustic and reputation-saving boon).

Finest types confess that sad rock standards such as *Born to Be Wild* feature heavily among their repertoire. But Piaggio's new Skipper scooter had me singing Jasper Carrott's Seventies comedy hit, *Funky Moped*.

Aside from the fact that the Skipper's 125cc engine takes it out of the moped league, the Carrott song reflects the wonderful dafiness of the new wave of sports-fashion scooters. Italian makers Piaggio have launched the groovy-looking bike as part of their drive to cover all sectors of this lucrative fashionable market.

The Skipper's lines are a world away from the chubby-looking retro styles that are bestsellers in Britain. Instead its junior boy-racer styling has a cheekiness that just makes you want to chuck it under the chin and ruffle its spiky Euro-punk haircut.



Skipper wins friends with its cheek

To my surprise, the bike proved at its Italian launch that it also goes a bit. Bundling along at silly continental speeds over the cobbles and tramlines of Milan's city centre might have been an unfair test of the machine's handling, but the little tyres bounced tenaciously over the potholes and ruts, and its sporty-looking suspension pogoed admirably under the punishment.

All this helped allay my haunting fear of scooters' handling: the combination of an upright riding position and wheels little larger than those on a hostess trolley frequently makes them feel they will tip over at the slightest provocation. But the Skipper corners firmly at anything less than demon speeds, and proved stable in a straight line as the perky little two-stroke motor powered to its 70mph top end.

Some of the novelty bits don't work, however, particularly the fussy luggage compartment lid and, more importantly, hand-shields that get in the way and could snare you in the handlebars in a crash.

One question remains: will the £2,250 Skipper sell in traditionalist Britain? The success of Piaggio's Vespa-badged retro bikes shows how buyers are still fixated on the mod thing, and prefer scooters to look the way they always have done. It will surely be a hit on the Continent, but is it too funky for the folks at home?

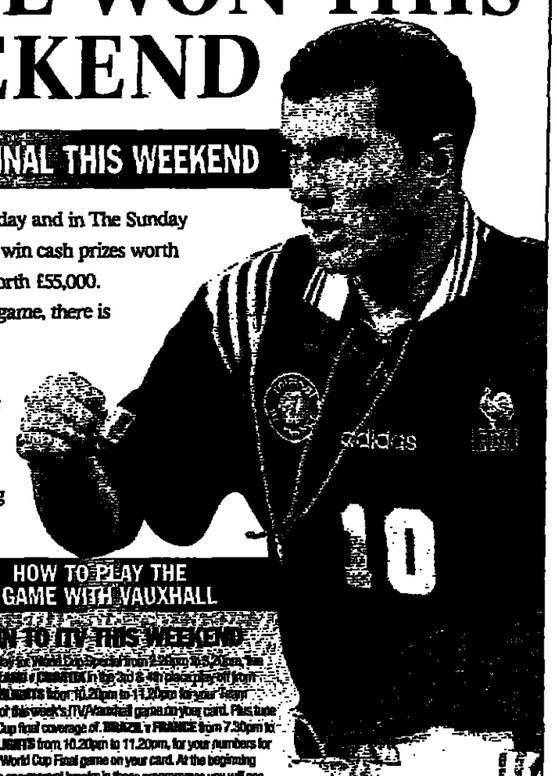
AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME THE TIMES

£75,500 IN CASH AND CARS TO BE WON THIS WEEKEND

TUNE INTO THE PLAY-OFF AND FINAL THIS WEEKEND

ITV Play Team Check in The Times today and in The Sunday Times tomorrow for the chance to win cash prizes worth £20,000 and four Vauxhall cars worth £55,000.

As there were no successful claims for last week's ITV game, there is £15,000 in cash, a Frontera Estate Transglobe worth £19,500, a Tigra Chequers worth £13,000 and a Corsa Breeze worth £8,500 to be won when you watch today's ITV coverage of the 3rd & 4th place play-off and the final tomorrow. Plus there's £5,000 in cash and a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic worth £14,500 to be won playing Team Check in The Times and The Sunday Times



HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAME

LOOK FOR THESE NAMES ON YOUR GAMECARD

SEEDORF 16

VIERI 15

The final set of names for *The Times* Chance 1 and Chance 2 games on your new card appears above. If any of the names match those on your Chance 1 or Chance 2 panels scratch them off. If you have revealed three identical symbols today on either the Chance 1 game or the Chance 2 game you have won a share of this week's *Times*/*Sunday Times* £5,000 prize and must make a claim on the Team Check hotline 0191-501 1248 before 3pm today. By making a successful claim you will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic.

HOW TO PLAY THE ITV GAME WITH VAUXHALL

TUNE IN TO ITV THIS WEEKEND

Tune in to ITV today for World Cup special from 2.45pm to 3.20pm, live coverage of BELGIUM v CROATIA in the 3rd & 4th place play-off from 3.45pm and HIGHLIGHTS from 10.20pm to 11.20pm for your Team Check numbers for this week's ITV/Vauxhall game on your card. Plus tune into ITV's World Cup final coverage of BRAZIL v FRANCE from 7.30pm to 10pm and HIGHLIGHTS from 10.20pm to 11.20pm, for your numbers for the ITV/Vauxhall World Cup Final game on your card. At the beginning and the end of the commercial breaks in these programmes you will see Vauxhall sponsorship clips. During each clip a white Team Check number will be highlighted in the top left-hand corner of the screen. If any of the highlighted numbers match a number on the silver football shirts on this week's ITV/Vauxhall game on your card, scratch them off. If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of the ITV/Vauxhall £15,000 Team Check prize and must call the claims line between 9.30am and 3pm on Monday. Successful claims will be entered into the ITV/Vauxhall prize draw to win a Frontera Estate Transglobe, a Tigra Chequers and a Corsa Breeze.



REVEAL THREE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS TO WIN A PRIZE

DON'T SCRATCH UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THE RULES

VAUXHALL CARS WORTH £55,500 TO BE WON

● Frontera Estate Transglobe ● Vectra Arctic ● Tigra Chequers ● Corsa Breeze

Vauxhall Motors, an official sponsor of World Cup 98 and sponsor of ITV's coverage of the tournament, has four Vauxhall cars worth more than £55,000 to be won this week. The prizes include UK delivery, number plates and road tax. This week there is a Vectra Arctic and a five-door Frontera Estate Transglobe to be won. Insurance is the responsibility of the winners. ~ For information about the Vauxhall range and details of your nearest dealer call 0345 400 800. www.vauxhall.co.uk

VAUXHALL

MORE VAUXHALL TEAM CHECK NUMBERS WILL BE BROADCAST TOMORROW

ABI GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD
01771 378 7979 Dealing: 01771 407 7666
Protected Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Safeguard	140.51	149.74	– 0.29	....
UK Safeguard ♦	137.71	137.71	....	....
UK Equity Safeguard	111.78	119.46†	– 0.09	2.02
-do- RAV to Jan 19	108.95	108.95	....	....
355 Day Safeguard	95.40	102.35	+ 2.08	....
Cash	957.88	962.67	+ 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	485.20	450.76	– 5.70	1.43
UK Small Cos	97.05	102.79	– 0.97	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	115.35	123.35	+ 1.49	1.88
Govmt UK Index	2699.99	2899.24	–67.05	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	85.80	88.90	+ 0.09	6.08
Monthly Inc	45.29	48.421	+ 0.10	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	352.90	374.28	+ 8.10	....
American Stock	241.82	258.41	+ 3.45	....
JG (US) Index	2725.98	2907.82	+62.98	4.25
European Gen	454.16	481.30	+ 9.99	0.66
European Stock	191.20	204.48	+ 3.76	....
Japan Gen	98.61	102.60	– 1.80	....
Asia Pacific	53.89	57.23	– 0.51	1.09
Pacific Stock	82.56	88.21	– 0.28	....
Emerging Mkts	140.35	150.19	– 2.05	....
Latin America	91.86	98.24	+ 4.10	....
Int Growth	192.55	206.16	+ 3.24	0.11
Balanced Exempt	182.50	189.10	+ 2.80	1.70
Global Strategy	48.09	51.36	+ 0.43	....

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General Acc	958.10	1019.00	– 9.00	2.08
General Inc	777.90	827.00	– 7.80	2.08
UK Growth Acc	697.80	699.70	– 6.40	2.03
UK Growth Inc	413.18	439.40	– 4.10	2.83
Higher Inc Acc ♦	1269.00	1349.00	+ 4.00	4.12
Higher Inc Acc ♦	641.80	682.70	+ 2.00	4.12
Glbl/Fxd Int Acc	244.10	257.80	+ 1.20	5.67
Glbl/Fxd Int Inc	99.10	104.70	+ 0.50	5.67
North America	587.40	533.70	+12.20	....
Europe	812.20	857.20	+10.00	0.43
Brit Exempt	130.60	139.10	– 1.50	2.08
Brit Fxd/Idx Acc	170.99	181.80	+ 0.99	4.15
Brit Fxd/Idx Inc	108.10	115.00	+ 0.60	4.15
Global Opps	136.76	145.40	+ 1.50	0.21
Balanced Acc	69.22	67.47	+ 0.01	2.11
Balanced Inc	74.61	79.37	+ 0.01	2.11
Japan Acc	31.53	33.54	– 0.43	....
Pac Basin Acc	237.20	252.30	– 4.40	3.80

AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0117 969 8000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Discretionary	70.13	74.61	+ 1.16	....
UK Income Acc	90.62	97.48	+ 0.04	2.19
Extra Inc Acc ♦	41.98	43.72	+ 0.15	5.67
High Yld Inc	125.70	134.80	– 0.50	3.00
Inc & Gth Inc	118.70	126.60	– 0.60	2.35
UK Smaller Cos	46.40	50.25	+ 0.10	1.73
Pacific Gth Pat	28.75	30.69	– 0.04	0.99

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	148.10	157.10†	+ 0.70	5.69
High Inc Equity	240.80	257.20†	+ 0.60	3.97
Worldwide Equity	218.70	235.50†	+ 0.80	2.13
American Growth	623.10	665.10†	+20.90	0.20
Asian Pacific	188.80	180.50	– 0.40	0.89
Stocks & Bonds	397.50	425.10†	+ 0.50	2.40
Euro Capital Acc	333.20	345.70	+ 0.40	0.21
Euro Inc	42.89	45.63†	+ 0.07	5.16
Balanced	358.90	381.80†	– 0.50	2.53
Global Opps	84.26	89.64	+ 1.27	0.36
Japan	76.31	81.61	– 1.31	....
Managed Inc	56.75	60.37†	+ 0.23	3.82
Mediterranean	205.20	230.50	+ 2.30	1.09
US Emerging Cos	260.20	276.30	+ 9.30	....
Ethical	105.00	111.70†	+ 0.10	1.64
International	161.00	172.00	+ 2.00	....
Dividend & Growth	62.53	66.52†	+ 0.22	3.57
Global Gwth & Inc	61.41	66.63	+ 0.25	2.00
Latin America	66.05	70.90	+ 0.95	0.94
Capital Reserve	158.70	138.80	+ 0.69	4.45

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MAP UK Growth	130.30	138.60	– 0.50	1.45
Equity Income ♦	180.10	191.50	– 0.20	3.38
Smaller Cos (4-1)	338.60	357.50	– 0.40	4.37
Smaller Cos	108.10	115.00†	– 1.30	1.74
International	152.50	162.20†	+ 0.90	0.80

ABERDEEN PROPLUC UT MGRS LTD
Enq: 0345 089 666 Dlg: 0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Opp Acc	412.36	432.92	+10.56	....
Emg Mkts Inc	52.29	55.24†	+ 0.84	0.35
Ethical Inc	66.04	101.62†	+ 0.88	0.84
Euro Gwth Acc	153.04	161.46	+ 1.83	....
Euro Spec Opps Acc	160.91	169.14	+ 1.25	....
Extra Inc Acc	236.36	252.26†	– 0.21	3.70
Extra Inc Acc	330.60	349.87	– 0.26	3.70
Far Eastg Exmp	62.30	65.93†	– 0.55	0.76
Fixed Int Acc ♦	30.73	32.25	– 0.05	7.56
Founder Mth Inc	74.36	78.88	+ 0.65	....
Fund Of Inv Inc ♦	222.93	236.90†	– 0.55	4.18
Fund Of Inv Acc	486.79	515.11	+ 0.56	4.18
Gilt Inc Acc ♦	59.79	52.93†	+ 0.29	6.36
Global Bond Inc	41.24	43.62	+ 0.40	4.77
Global Inc Inc	35.84	37.70	+ 0.09	3.18
Global Inc Acc	55.08	57.94	+ 0.14	3.18
High Inc Inc	177.88	188.24	– 0.34	3.89
High Inc Acc	280.08	293.66	– 0.54	3.89
Japan Inc	141.56	149.15	– 0.73	....
Latin Amer Inc	61.19	64.75	+ 2.50	0.77
Master Inc Inc	68.62	72.00†	+ 0.55	2.06
Master Gwth Inc	64.70	68.45	+ 0.68	0.53
North Amer Inc	297.20	310.98†	+ 4.97	0.01
North Amer Acc	297.56	311.35	+ 4.98	0.01
Pacific Inc	49.14	51.99	– 0.41	0.57
Prop Shares Inc	97.81	103.59†	– 1.28	1.04
Special Sit Inc	199.09	234.34†	– 1.35	0.90
Special Sit Acc	219.86	232.69	– 2.23	0.90
Tech Inc	941.79	991.14†	+18.24	....
Tech Acc	941.79	991.14	+18.24	....
UK Blue Chip Inc	139.57	135.47	– 1.10	2.23
UK Blue Chip Acc	154.53	163.08	– 1.22	2.23
UK Emg Co Inc	91.81	96.26†	+ 0.44	0.72
UK Gwth Inc	79.51	84.13	– 0.14	1.81
World Pot Inc ♦	102.25	107.59†	+ 0.84	1.67

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2763.00	2882.00	–24.00	....

ABRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Reskill Property ♦	109.30	116.20	....	5.90

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01492 305 958

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amity Income	115.29	122.32	– 0.69	1.74
Income Builder Inc	110.62	117.66	+ 1.07	2.76

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01253 626 811

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cabinet Opt Pens	156.80	162.90	....	....
Founders Pens Pens	89.79	93.28	....	....

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Sm Cos	486.10	528.80	+ 8.10	....
Bonds	124.59	131.10†	+ 0.30	6.29
Brit Smlr Cos	119.99	127.60	– 1.40	1.81
Europe	484.10	513.50	+15.80	....
Euro Smlr Cos	151.80	161.50	+ 2.10	0.20
High Income ♦	76.33	81.20	+ 0.54	4.90
Income	463.80	493.40†	+ 3.20	3.39
Japan	267.20	282.60	+ 0.90	....
Latin American	97.30	103.00†	+ 4.50	....
Pacific	36.54	62.20	– 1.20	1.20
UK Smlr Cos	70.17	74.65	– 0.15	0.80
Japanese Sm Cos	448.50	480.70	+ 1.50	....
Mngd Fd	273.30	289.90	+ 1.20	1.91

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 6578

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bnt & Gnma	485.20	512.80	+11.20	0.68
Capital Gwth	150.60	201.00	+ 1.30	2.10
Wrldwi Opps	272.60	288.20	+ 7.00	0.76

BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD
Customer Help Desk 0161 922 4000
Income Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	189.20	100.20†	+ 0.10	6.86
Cash Acc	135.30	135.30	+ 0.10	6.86
Income ♦	799.10	851.30	+ 0.50	3.47
Income Builder ♦	91.77	97.73	+ 0.09	4.02
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	133.20	131.00	– 0.80	1.81
500	588.00	644.10	– 4.30	1.37
General	469.20	499.10	– 3.40	1.37
Property	279.60	306.00†	+ 1.20	5.88
Tracker	325.10	347.50†	– 2.20	1.21
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	208.40	222.70†	– 1.30	1.14
FTSE 100	151.50	160.80†	– 1.20	1.36
Smaller Cos	58.52	73.09	– 0.60	1.86
Smaller Cos Acc	82.52	88.02	– 0.74	1.86
Growth Funds - Overseas				
American	284.50	300.30	+ 8.10	....
American Growth	192.00	203.20	+ 5.60	....
Japan	88.04	90.94	– 2.42	....
Japan Acc	89.95	94.61	– 2.45	....
Japan Spec Sits	48.73	43.10	– 0.66	....
Worldwide	248.00	263.10†	+ 2.30	0.55
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	58.55	62.29†	+ 0.19	6.32
Mngd Gwth & Inc ♦	54.04	57.49	+ 0.12	....
Managed Growth	54.03	57.49	+ 0.05	0.69
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Submember 0800 783 4567				
Income Funds				
Distribution ♦	140.80	141.50†	– 0.20	4.89
Equity Income ♦	192.85	205.70	– 0.40	3.54
Gilt & Fx Int	64.64	66.92†	....	6.70
Int Fxd Int	161.80	164.30†	– 2.00	4.58
Int Fxd Int Acc	133.30	137.80†	+ 0.10	4.59
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	600.80	642.40	– 4.30	1.97
UK Growth Acc	600.80	642.40	– 4.30	1.97
Growth & Inc	617.40	651.30	– 4.80	1.15
Growth & Inc Acc	1332	1417	–10.00	1.15
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	320.30	336.90	+ 4.80	0.45
Euro Growth Acc	350.70	371.10	+ 5.20	0.45
Far Eastern Gwth	96.26	91.77†	– 1.98	1.18
Far East Gth Acc	147.80	157.20	– 3.40	1.18
Customer Service Centre 0800 626757				
24 Hr Mkt Cln	169.70	169.40	– 0.80	....

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1800

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Growth	232.50	245.80	+ 7.40	....
American Smlr Cos	169.60	152.40	+ 1.40	....
Eastern	122.70	129.80	– 3.50	0.30
Equity Income ♦	135.00	144.00	– 0.30	3.69
European Growth	101.10	744.30	+16.30	0.40
Europe Select	561.60	600.90†	+ 4.60	0.50
European Growth	179.80	190.40	+ 3.70	0.59
Global Bond	77.33	81.37	– 0.07	5.10
Global Growth	227.70	241.40	+ 4.90	0.10
Japan Growth	113.10	119.80	+ 1.90	....
Japan Smaller	73.58	83.94	– 1.17	....
Korea Trust	23.15	25.11	– 0.13	....
Portfolio	202.56	215.20	– 1.60	1.80
-do- Accum	369.20	418.00	– 3.10	1.80
UK Growth	155.60	165.60†	– 0.20	1.20
UK Smaller Cos	157.30	170.80	– 0.70	1.00
Select Managers	107.70	114.20	+ 0.43	1.00

BLACKSTORE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Port Inc	117.90	125.40	+ 2.50	....
Spcsed Opport Inc	53.16	56.55	+ 2.27	....

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	229.26	238.88	– 1.45	0.45
-do- Accum	248.45	258.88	– 1.72	0.45
Smaller Cos	215.51	224.48	– 2.96	0.12
-do- Accum	245.88	256.29	– 3.37	0.12
Higher Yield ♦	79.70	83.59†	– 0.03	3.34
-do- Accum ♦	125.25	131.60	– 0.05	3.34
Eurotrack Gth Inc	169.52	176.64	+ 9.00	....
Eurotrack Growth	177.46	209.00	+ 4.62	....
-do- Accum	383.40	395.20	+ 4.60	....
Magd Prpty Inc	68.19	71.03	– 0.59	1.32
-do- Accum	71.86	74.79	– 0.62	1.32
Int Spec Opps	229.23	249.19	+ 3.59	....
Pacific Gth	84.48	88.00	+ 0.61	1.20
UK General ♦	129.25	145.06†	– 0.79	2.36
-do- Accum ♦	159.11	169.85	– 0.98	2.36
Japan	38.24	39.83	– 0.74	....
Gilt & Fixed Int ♦	113.05	117.15†	+ 0.43	6.91

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7215

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Short Dated Gilt	64.86	65.69	+ 0.22	6.37

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5089

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equities	253.60	269.00†	– 8.50	1.18
UK Growth	329.70	326.80	– 2.70	1.22
UK Income	211.00	222.20	+ 0.10	3.17

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 639 100

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Can Exm Dist	314.50	333.70	– 1.20	1.02
-do- Income Dist	178.19	186.60	– 1.00	2.05
-do- Accum	680.70	636.70	– 2.10	2.05
Can Am Smlr Cos	43.29	47.59	+ 0.25	4.57
Gilt & Fxd Int	378.00	402.30	+ 2.70	1.44
Growth Units	185.70	205.50	+ 0.60	5.50
Bond	257.80	264.80	+ 2.90	0.11
Intl Growth	400.50	425.10	+ 0.70	....
North American	141.69	151.40†	– 1.30	1.49
Far East	305.50	327.60†	– 4.00	0.68
UK Smaller Cos	180.40	193.10†	+ 2.50	0.40
European	77.55	29.63	+ 0.02	....
Japanese Growth	310.90	331.80	– 1.20	2.58
High Income	284.70	281.50	+ 4.01	0.06
Managed Pens	107.49	114.35†	+ 0.11	1.05
Portfolio	130.41	138.73	– 0.43	3.41

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Aeqidont & Gen	350.19	370.59	+ 9.00	....
Eurogen Inc	167.40	177.80	+ 1.70	....
Smaller Cos (4-1)	135.10	134.20	– 0.10	1.52
Growth	765.00	845.80	+ 2.80	1.36
Income & Growth ♦	653.50	695.30	+ 5.79	3.88
-do- Accum ♦	1040.70	1107.20	+ 9.20	3.88
Japan & Gen	46.05	48.65	– 0.01	....
Hallmark Gwth	1708.00	1788.00†	+ 6.00	1.02
-do- Accum	2395.00	2508.00	+ 7.00	1.02
Special Sits	1952.70	194.40†	+ 0.40	1.28
High Yield	2096.00	2161.00	+11.00	3.30

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	125.00	134.65†	– 0.21	2.17
American Portfolio	197.78	203.14†	+ 1.75	0.59
European Portfolio	223.36	244.22	+ 3.59	3.88
High Income	56.66	59.67	+ 0.24	6.26
Japanese Portfolio	44.44	47.07†	– 0.55	....
Pacific Portfolio	93.41	100.45†	– 1.34	1.41
UK Equity	138.31	139.97	– 0.73	2.58
UK Equity & Bd	73.19	77.56	– 0.35	4.93
UK Smlr Cos	61.96	66.27	– 0.46	1.72

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Fd Inc	1070.32	1065.50	+22.24	3.19
Inv Fd Acc	1123.53	1146.51	+23.33	....
Fxd Int Sec Inc	168.45	169.13	+ 1.00	7.57
Fxd Int Sec Acc	187.07	187.81	+ 1.12	....

CGF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	1035.16	1054.86	+20.36	3.30
Investment Acc	5127.65	5206.15	+188.34	....
Fixed Int Inc	135.58	138.12	– 2.42	7.65
Fixed Int Acc	285.85	288.59	+ 0.48	....

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 556 8600

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CF Intl Acc	105.57	110.89	+ 1.87	5.57
City Fin Fd	38.27	41.27†	+ 0.56	....
Accm Ethical Tst	219.62	230.85†	+ 3.56	0.52
City Fin Assets	98.32	103.34	+ 2.27	2.75
City Fin Intl	92.16	98.05	+ 2.17	....
Fdars Inco Cns	429.19	447.01†	+ 4.89	2.11
Buckley Wrld Gth	139.74	148.12	....	....
Utilities Fd	98.18	102.17	+ 1.90	2.69

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 42.58 45.19 + 1.42 ....

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	121.77	128.54	+ 2.80	....
Dragon Growth	39.49	41.96	– 0.05	2.05
Equity High Inc ♦	133.09	140.83†	+ 0.86	3.82
-do- Accum ♦	203.52	215.36	+ 1.34	3.82
Extra Income Inc	29.39	30.95†	+ 0.07	5.85
Extra Income Acc	35.43	37.31	+ 0.09	5.85
Far East Gwth	117.11	123.93	– 2.71	....
Emergent	42.15	42.94	– 0.06	....
General Equity	152.86	161.35	– 0.90	1.86
Japan Growth	31.42	33.43	– 0.17	....
Managed Growth	100.44	105.92	+ 0.09	1.24
Pref Shr Cos Inc	50.59	53.53	+ 0.27	1.14
Retirement Inc ♦	36.08	40.52	+ 0.37	4.44
Special Sits	65.27	70.16	– 0.11	1.65
UK & Overseas	79.44	84.85	– 0.47	0.24

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	92.05	96.82	– 0.32	2.88
Capital	117.03	121.90	– 1.43	1.59
High Income	58.05	60.45	+ 0.07	6.30
Top 50	85.92	89.50	– 0.82	1.59

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	263.74	274.76	– 0.91	3.69
Long Gilt	83.98	86.41	– 0.38	4.71
Monthly Inc Plus	83.79	86.49	+ 0.15	6.74
-do- Accum	79.78	83.11	+ 0.19	6.74
Preference Share	62.16	64.76†	– 1.57	6.62
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	189.00	198.90†	– 0.46	4.89
Managed Fund	93.61	97.52	+ 0.01	2.53
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	89.91	98.05	– 3.16	1.08
-do- Accum	67.42	70.24	– 2.67	1.08
Gilt & General	139.74	145.58	– 0.68	1.92
-do- Accum	186.42	196.29	– 0.91	1.92
UK Growth	274.79	286.27	– 1.16	1.23
International Growth Funds				
European Growth	385.57	401.76	+10.41	....
Far Eastern Gwth	81.36	84.65	– 1.23	0.39
Global Bond	72.51	75.54	+ 0.76	5.08
Japan Growth	78.29	81.56	– 1.71	....
North Amer Gwth	376.15	391.85	+ 8.63	....
Overseas Growth	46.25	48.18	– 0.67	1.35
Worldwide Growth	95.57	99.56	+ 0.95	....
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.83	92.83	+ 0.10	0.79
Homeowner Fund	114.80	122.14	– 0.03	1.88

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 956 8600

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	48.52	51.71	+ 0.55	2.49

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth	224.48	238.59	– 0.70	1.56
UK Equity Inc	98.10	104.36	+ 0.18	3.35
European Growth	127.40	134.90	+ 2.60	....
UK Spec Sits	245.80	260.60	– 1.60	1.42

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 263 9494

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	1373.00	1394.00†	....	3.83

CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 376

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Inc	113.60	120.70	+ 1.10	0.26
Fellowship Tst	139.70	148.60	– 0.50	0.90
Income ♦	388.16	412.80	+ 0.30	3.34
-do- Accum ♦	1098.00	1157.00	+ 1.00	....
Smaller Cos	276.70	296.40†	– 1.80	0.40
-do- Accum	349.40	371.70	– 2.40	....
Gth Portfolio	139.00	147.80	+ 0.20	1.03
Mthly Inc Port ♦	113.80	121.00	– 0.60	3.22

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1604

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Sm Cos	1944.80	1945.50	+22.30	0.48
UK Small Cos	2543.40	2650.10	–30.90	3.34

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8818

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Disc Inc	302.60	311.50	+ 0.30	....

DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD
Dealines:0171 856 7354 Client Helpline:0800 317573
Formerly KBUT

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Smlr Cos	249.59	265.52	+ 3.27	....
Asian Growth	146.25	155.55	– 1.62	0.40
Bond Income	112.15	118.18†	+ 0.41	6.25
European	329.00	349.89†	+ 4.46	0.12
European Prfr	158.53	169.64†	+ 1.62	0.57
European Special	244.42	260.02†	+ 3.18	....
Gilt Yield	132.32	139.60	+ 0.76	6.19
Global Equ Inc	156.28	165.88	+ 0.05	1.39
High Yield ♦	222.63	236.84†	– 0.56	3.87
Japan	271.84	288.76	– 7.16	....
Japanese Special	130.46	138.69	– 0.89	....
Money Market	105.47	105.47	+ 0.11	....
North American	184.26	195.91	+ 4.73	....
Smaller Cos	179.92	190.34†	– 3.39	0.76
Smlr Cos Dis	79.56	84.63†		4.78
Tortoise/pac Co Ex	1375.00	1383.00	– 1.00	0.11
UK Index Inc	483.65	486.36	+ 0.47	2.46
Global Income	273.62	292.64	+ 0.94	3.09
Formerly Thornton				
European	588.77	595.09	+ 9.18	0.31
Europe Bd	39.31	40.91	+ 0.31	8.97
Energy	195.40	1036.39†	+ 0.61	1.73
Global Exc Mkts	65.33	69.34	+ 0.36	0.58
Japan Tst	59.80	62.61†	– 0.65	....
Latin Dragons	52.64	55.12†	+ 0.15	....
Oriental Income ♦	20.85	22.39	+ 0.14	3.94
Pacific	162.97	170.64	+ 0.32	7.82
Tiger	146.53	153.43†	+ 0.27	....
UK Growth	955.30	1000.31	+ 3.17	1.25
UK High Yield ♦	159.11	166.60	– 0.38	....
UK Mid-Cap	512.54	536.69	+ 6.75	1.10
UK Smlr Cos Dis ♦	91.18	103.85	– 0.47	5.21
UK Smlr Cos	164.78	172.54	– 0.64	0.01

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 699 555

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	101.80	107.80	+ 1.90	....
Financial	87.33	92.76	+ 1.73	1.08
UK Growth ♦	419.40	445.60	+ 0.40	1.96
UK Income ♦	250.91	266.60	+ 0.20	3.19
International	516.00	548.20	+ 7.30	....
Int Cap Inc	136.50	145.50	+ 2.00	1.86
Latin American	31.11	33.05	+ 1.56	....
Managed Gwth Pat	114.20	119.70	+ 0.50	0.58
Pacific	52.88	56.20	+ 0.94	....
Prof High Inc	27.87	29.61†	+ 0.36	....
Tokyo	134.50	142.30	– 1.70	....
UK Smaller Cos	327.20	347.80	+ 0.20	....
Japan Sml Cos	224.20	237.50	+ 0.60	....
Nth Amer	694.30	734.10†	+19.50	....

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth Acc	382.90	403.00†	+ 3.50	0.16
Income	733.40	772.00	+ 6.60	4.02

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Endurance Fd	281.80	299.80	+ 4.00	0.66

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 400

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	157.29	165.67†	+ 2.65	1.14
Ethical Tst	83.07	85.39	+ 0.36	1.87
Far Eastern	192.17	202.28†	– 5.79	2.55
High Income	139.44	299.84	+ 0.27	3.49
UK Index Tracking	76.79	80.83	– 0.69	2.09
Intl Growth	149.38	153.63	+ 0.32	1.27
North American	216.78	228.20	+ 3.63	1.44
Pelican	204.17	214.92	– 1.72	2.14
Smaller Cos	84.24	88.67†	– 0.53	1.73
Special Sits	165.80	111.37	+ 0.78	2.49
Tst of Inv Sits	277.79	292.44	+ 1.28	1.40

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IN THE BALANCE 59

Nationwide has an attack of the jitters

WEEKEND MONEY

CAT ATTACK 60

Isa benchmark plans provoke angry reaction



Painful legacy for middle classes

Susan Emmett explains how to keep the Revenue's hands off your estate

One of Britain's richest men avoided more than £5 million in inheritance tax last week by threatening to sell his greatest family heirloom abroad. The Government waived the tax bill after the Duke of Northumberland said he would have to sell the Sherbourne Missal, a 14th-century relgious book.

This controversial concession contrasts sharply with previous fears that Labour would tighten the rules. After two budgets the inheritance tax remains unchanged and accountants believe that a Government, which is so reluctant to alienate the aristocracy and well-off, is unlikely to make any alterations.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, tax partner at Chantrey Vellacott, said: "They genuinely don't want to upset the better-off nouveau riche. If they were going to make any changes, they would have done it already."

Ironically, inheritance tax tends to hit the less well off who cannot afford to minimise their liability, so careful tax planning now could avert a hefty bill later.

Q Who has to pay inheritance tax?

A Only one in every 45 estates is subject to inheritance tax. But those with estates worth more than £223,000 must pay tax at 40 per cent.

The new threshold, which increased from £215,000 after the last Budget, may seem high but by the time the car, the house and the furniture is counted people can easily reach that limit, especially with rising property prices.

Q Is there any way of preventing the Inland Revenue from taking such a great slice of my estate?

A When you die, everything you own — your home, possessions, investments and savings — goes into your estate. Some of that may be free of inheritance tax, such as anything left to your spouse or a UK charity. Gifts you made seven years before your death and insurance policies written in trust are also exempt.

However, there are other steps you can take to reduce payments. Basically, the more you give away in your lifetime, the lower the bill. Provided you can afford it, you can give away £3,000 in any one tax year. Making wedding gifts can also bring you closer to the threshold. You can give your children as much as £5,000 and stepchildren and grandchildren £2,500 each. A further £1,000 can be given to anyone getting married.

Q Surely it's easier just to leave everything to my spouse?

A Leaving everything to your husband or wife might seem like a simple way of avoiding inheritance tax but it is worth remembering that the value of your estate will be added to theirs, increasing the tax liability when they die.

Q Can friends and relatives reduce the burden of inheritance tax after my death?

A It is possible to alter a will up to two years after a death, provided that all the beneficiaries agree. By drawing up a "deed of variation" you can reduce or eliminate an onerous tax bill. This was available to Princes William and Harry, who were faced with hefty tax because their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, failed to update her will after the divorce. However, the prospect of facing accusations of tax dodging led royal advisers to abandon the plan.

Q Is there any way round paying out a lump sum on inheritance tax?

A Tax is normally payable within a year of death. Any outstanding payment is subject to an interest rate of 5 per cent.



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Moving story: Jean and Richard Prosser fear that they may be forced to sell their cottage to pay an additional inheritance tax bill

'Hope value' is sting in the tail

THE story of Jean Prosser illustrates how inheritance tax has the greatest impact on the middle classes. It also shows how families can be hit by unexpectedly large bills because the inheritance tax rules are open to infinite interpretation.

When Mrs Prosser's mother died three years ago, she left her daughter a cottage in Andover, Hampshire, standing in an acre of land. These attractive grounds have, however, proved something of a mixed blessing to Mrs Prosser because they triggered a demand for an extra £20,000 inheritance tax, in addition to the £50,000 already paid. Mrs Prosser is disputing the bill. Meanwhile the sum owed is increasing as interest is added to the total.

The argument between Mrs Prosser and the taxman stems from a "hope value" ruling that another house could be built in the grounds of the cottage, giving the garden substantial development value. The property was valued after the death of Mrs Prosser's mother and given a probate value of £65,000. However, the valuers commented that there was planning potential for another property on the site, which caused the Inland Revenue to reassess its estimate.

The Prossers argue that they have no intention of building another home in their garden. However, a Revenue valuer told the Prossers that the only way to resolve the dispute was to apply for planning permission and see if it was granted. Mr Prosser put in an application and Mrs Prosser objected to it, but it was granted earlier this year.

Mrs Prosser said: "The last three years have been very stressful. The affair has a tremendous impact on our family life." She fears they may be forced to sell their home to pay the bill if the Revenue does not withdraw its demand.

An Inland Revenue spokesman said that it could not comment on individual cases, but in principle, with the valuation of a property for inheritance tax, the district valuer is asked "to place an open market value on the property".

However, the Prossers have recently received a letter from the Revenue saying that if they remain unable to accept the basis of valuation, a senior official from the Nottingham capital taxes office will meet them to discuss the basis of valuation, the handling of the case and how the matter can be resolved.

KAREN WOOLFSON

Make a will to avoid further heartache

CONFRONTING your own mortality is never pleasant, but dying intestate leads to administrative chaos which often can be resolved only by expensive legal action. Only one in three adults makes a will. But if you die without one, strict rules decide where your money goes.

The law does not recognise live-in partners or relatives without a direct blood link. Unmarried couples are particularly at risk because the surviving partner could even lose the home, unless the property comes under joint names.

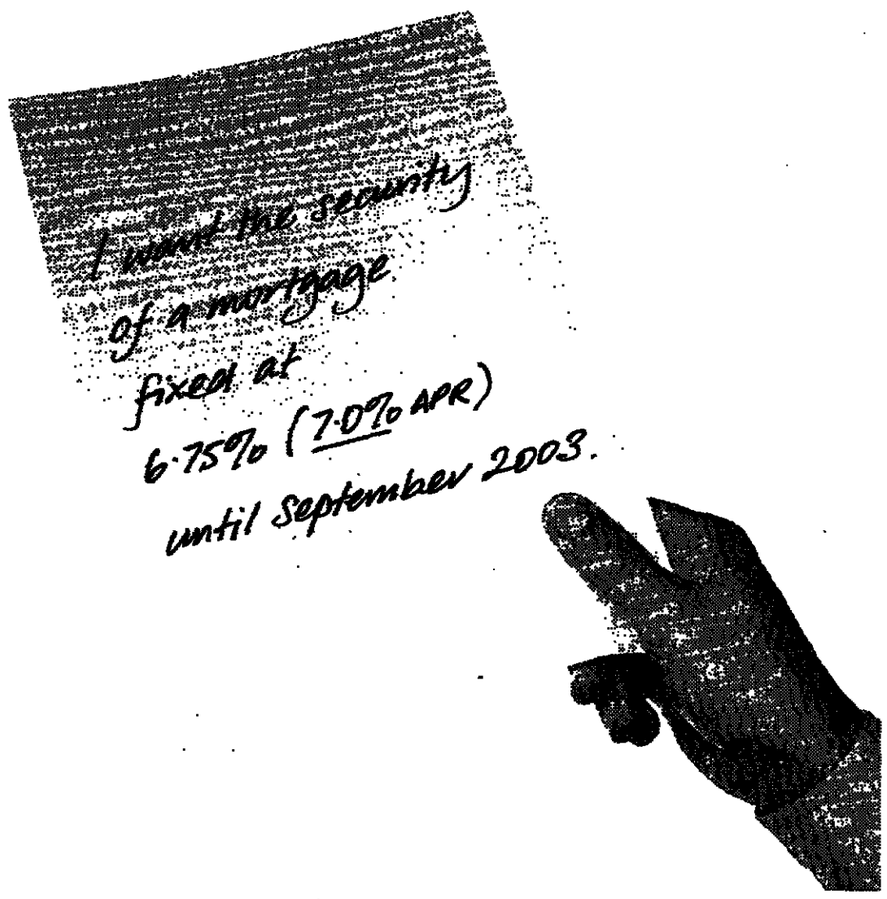
If you are married but have no children, the spouse will get everything up to £200,000. The rest is divided between your spouse and your parents. Your siblings get the cash, if your parents are no longer alive. If you have children, your spouse will get everything up to £125,000. The rest is divided. Half will go to the children once they reach 18 years of age. The rest will go into a trust. Your spouse will receive the income but the capital would eventually go to the children.

Some people may be tempted to rely on DIY packs sold in stationers. But a valid will must meet certain legal requirement, such as being witnessed by two people who will not benefit from it.

If your will is homemade, you may consider showing it to a solicitor to avoid any mistakes. Lawyers claim they earn more money sorting out badly written wills after deaths than writing new ones. It is best to go to a solicitor if you have children by a previous marriage, have been married more than once and your ex-partner is still alive or if you run your own business. A simple will costs about £50, and a couple making similar wills would be charged £75.

Once you have made your will, do not forget to update it, especially after a life-changing event such as marriage or divorce. Marriage automatically invalidates a will made before the wedding.

SUSAN EMMETT



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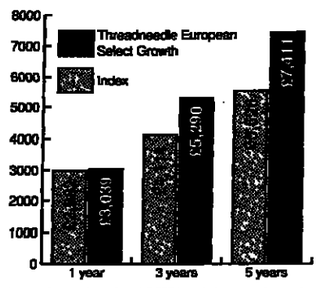
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*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 17/11/86 to 1/5/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +86%, 1/5/93 to 1/5/98). #Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/5/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.

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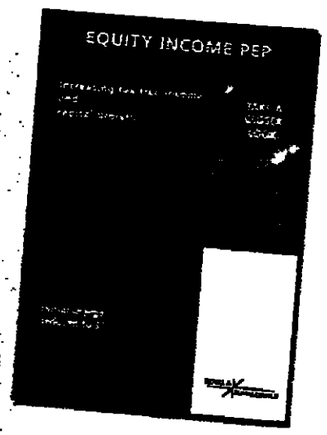
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GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Trading in the UK and continental shares is, we are told, to be easier and cheaper via a single European stock market. Well-meant projects such as that rolled out by the London and Frankfurt stock exchanges this week do not always work out as planned. But this is no time to be cynical.

Anyone truly investing for decades ahead should consider investing in industries such as motor manufacture that barely exist on the London market. If sterling were to merge into the euro, it would be daft to invest in only one part of a domestic euro economy. If we do not join euroland, trading will surely still be in euros, so the planners must avoid UK private investors paying another layer of charges.

The most intriguing implication of the plan was scarcely mentioned. What happens to the nine out of ten stocks that will not be on Europe's big board?

A national market in smaller or less-traded stocks should be a lively counterweight to the pan-European big top. The Throgmorton Street fathers are listening to such concerns but not at this stage giving equal priority to a new domestic market, as they should. The Bank of England learnt that, if you treat half your operations as a poor relation, you end up losing them.

If the national share market is to be vigorous it should have its own chief executive. The Exchange's Martin Wheatley might fit, and Angela Knight, who runs the Association of Private Client Brokers and Investment Managers, has been mentioned already. The new market will need to look to private investors for growth, since the institutional affair with smaller stocks has been broken off.

The national market, not being able to rely on a big daily flow of orders for each share, will have to run on wholesale market-makers to hold stock and keep prices reasonably steady. The extra expense of this will need to be countered by low transaction costs. The Exchange, and others, have blunderingly tried to achieve this by favouring nominee holdings that cut off private investors from the companies they jointly own. This will not do if a market in domestic shares is to prosper. Quoted companies could play a bigger role, not least in smoothing dealings in their own shares. The exchange should learn from the lively ups and downs of the Alternative Investment Market and, most of all, rethink its policy on new issues.

Progressive changes in rules, at the behest of issuers and the big battalions, ensure by accident that small investors do not have a sniff at most ordinary flotations unless they happen to be the client of a sponsoring or favoured broker. A national market will not be lively and reverse a potentially deadly decline unless this relationship is restored by using some kind of open public share offer as the norm. Costs certainly need to be cut but on this, as other matters, the Exchange should find that if its commitment is strong, ways can be found.

Experience in the big stock market has been that costs saved at the expense of private investors are absorbed by fatter City fees. If a British domestic stock market is to prosper alongside the grand pan-European market for blue chips, priorities need to change fast.

All shook up by credit card rates

Despite the attractions of the Elvis Mastercard and new Burke's Peerage card the latest consumer credit figures show that the public is borrowing less on credit cards, preferring to take advantage of the lower rates now available on personal loans, where fierce competition is raging between banks, building societies and the banking divisions of insurance companies.

Whereas the annual percentage rate (APR) on a credit card is usually 20 per cent plus, personal loan rates can be as low as 10 per cent. Although the Burke's Peerage card has an introductory rate of 11.9 per cent, it rises to 19.99 per cent after six months.

However, not all the personal loan deals are as cheap as they appear. You may only be able to take advantage of the cut-price rate if you take out payment protection insurance. Taking into account the cost of the insurance, a single-figure interest rate becomes a double-digit rate.

According to figures from *Moneyfacts*, the cheapest personal loan deal at the moment is from Northern Rock, which charges just 9.7 per cent on loans of more than £10,000 and 9.9 per cent on loans of between £5,000 and £10,000.

However, these low rates apply only where payment protection is taken out. The normal rates for uninsured loans are 11.7 per cent and 12.4 per cent respectively.

Elsewhere, Bank of Scotland Direct, Capital One Direct, Direct Line, Hamilton Direct Bank, Lombard Direct, Royal Bank of Scotland Direct and Yorkshire Bank all offer attractive rates. But the best value for money personal loans come from the direct lenders, where the transaction is carried out over the telephone. This system involves lower costs, allowing the savings to be passed on to the borrower.

According to Moneyfacts, *the cheapest unsecured personal loans of £5,000 over three years are: (monthly repayments without insurance) Northern Rock £165.56, Yorkshire Bank £165.77, Prudential Banking £166.30; (monthly repayments with insurance) Northern Rock £183.14, Direct Line £183.75, Nationwide BS £185.26.*

JOHN GIVENS



Credit card companies hope affinity cards such as the Elvis Mastercard will woo an increasingly wary public

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Nothing simple about savings issue



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The row over Catmarking, which has ranged Virgin against the fund management establishment, began with the Treasury document *Making Savings Easy*. The title is significant. Savings are anything but easy, as shown by the spat between Virgin's men in open-necked shirts and the Austin Reed brigade.

The Treasury proposes that the fair deal standard should be attached only to index-tracker trusts. Virgin supports the Treasury. The rest of the industry contends that this arrangement would exclude many general trusts with no greater degree of risk. But many such trusts provide miserable returns and have high charges, a combination likely to make the investor conclude that saving is one of the easiest ways to look a mug.

Virgin accuses its competitors of self-interest and a desire to line their pockets. Here the industry makes the Mandy Rice-Davies defence ("Well, he would, wouldn't he") claiming that Virgin favours trackers because its fortunes are based on this type of fund. However, the few impartial observers of this war of words point out that Virgin will not necessarily benefit from the standard. Index tracker annual fees range from 0.3 per cent to 1 per cent charged by Virgin and several others. If the Government declared that the deduction must be no higher than, say, 0.6 per cent, then Virgin would doubtless be inconvenienced.

The cynical could conclude that the complicated arguments that have resulted from the Treasury's apparent quest for simplicity may be just what ministers wanted. Fulfilling their aim to show that savings are actually rather complicated, the dispute over the Catmark has highlighted crucial issues such as charges and performance.

The Catmarking proposals are sure to be modified. The Government can have no wish to see its grand scheme to ensure that we all invest more become a niche product. But by then proposals will have served their purpose.

Paying a high price for safety

MORE proof, if it were needed, that savings are not necessarily easy can be found in the Barclays b² scheme. The b² account, advertised by Richard E. Grant recovering on a beach from his stint as the girls' manager in *Spiceworld*, is a guaranteed stock market fund. Aimed at those who aspire to something a little more elevated than a building society, it should suit those who want an investment in shares but fear that the markets could face a downturn.

To date, these novice investors have been hard pressed to discover what price Barclays required them to pay to be protected against a slide in share values. This week the answer has emerged, but only because Legal & General has decided to close a similar fund to new investors. The cost of the b² guarantee is £14 out of every £100 invested, before other charges are deducted. Most will conclude that this is too much to pay for safety.

Stark choice

THE Nationwide's future has been discussed this week by figures as diverse as Chris Evans, the entrepreneur broadcaster, and Michael Hardern, the butler and aspiring director of the building society.

Mr Evans became a convert to the cause of mutuality in the course of a radio breakfast show. Mr Hardern believes conversion is the solution to every problem, including the reform of the House of Lords.

Those more restrained persons preoccupied by what the vote means to them and their finances can ponder two issues. If the carpetbaggers win the day, then 4.9 million people will certainly be richer and happy to be so. But everyone is likely to pay more for their mortgages, because the end of mutuality will reduce competition in the market.

Change of job can leave you poorer in retirement years



The Sixties was an era of liberation. Old attitudes were questioned but certain assumptions remained the same. Employees were expected to stay with one company until they retired. Those who moved from job to job are today living to regret it as their pension rights have been much diminished. Anthony Kirkby, a reader from Buckinghamshire, who celebrates his 65th birthday next month, is a case in point.

"Between 1961 to 1966, I was employed by a printing firm called Nickeloid and was a member of the company pension scheme. Nickeloid went out of business 25 years ago.

"I had £224.82 invested in the fund which was guaranteed to pay out to me £23 12s 6d a year. This payment was secured by a certificate of assurance issued by Legal & General.

"This sum was a useful amount in the early Sixties when the average weekly wage was probably less than £5. But I have just learnt from Legal & General that the sum remains unchanged at exactly the same amount today, just £23 a year. It's outrageous. I do have a second pension which pays out a satisfactory amount. But that is not the point."

Weekend Money replies: You are a victim of the pension scheme legislation of the Sixties. When you left Nickeloid in 1966, your company pension was frozen. Legal & General says that, when the Nickeloid scheme was wound up in 1973, your pension was secured by using a deferred annuity, which is due to start paying next month.

The law ruling at the time did not allow for transfers into another company pension scheme, as there was still an assumption that a worker would stay in one job for life. The regulations were changed in the Eighties to allow people to move a pension from one company to another, or to transfer the cash into a special type of insurance policy called a section 226. If you leave your money in a pension fund when you change jobs, it is no longer frozen but deferred. It must be increased in line with inflation, up to 5 per cent.

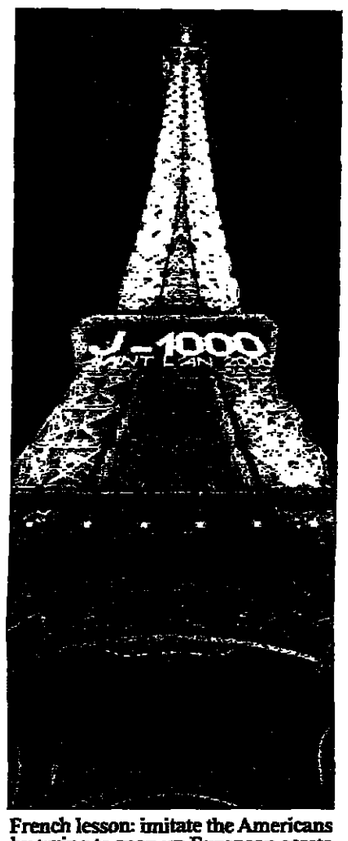
Legal & General admits that you have lost out, noting you have been "caught out by the pension rules of the day and when they were changed they were not made retrospective".

KAREN WOOLFSON

Helen Pridham says it is time to buy as continental markets climb

European shares an attractive opportunity

PEP FILE



French lesson: imitate the Americans by trying to snap up European assets

Parisian fury has been aroused this week at the news that the Eiffel Tower, the symbol of French pride, could pass into American hands if GMAC, the US group, purchases the loss-making Crédit Foncier, the French bank. It is not only the Americans who are suddenly finding French and other continental assets attractive.

The strength of European stock markets this year is making the Continent an increasingly popular area. At present, the easiest way of gaining a stake there is through a unit or investment trust, although the news this week that the London and Frankfurt stock exchanges are forming a link should mean that it will be easier in future for investors to buy European shares themselves.

European stock markets have been doing well for the past two years in anticipation of European monetary union but this year has seen them surge ahead still more. The average European unit trust is already up more than 30 per cent since the beginning of the year, according to Reuters Funds performance statistics, compared with a 15 per cent rise in UK growth funds.

On the investment trust side, European trusts stand out as the best-performing sector over one, three, five and ten years.

Such performance and the fact that European funds seem to be flavour of the month could make some investors feel cautious about investing at what could be the top of the market. However, investment advisers and fund managers argue that there is more growth to come.

Anthony Yadgarorff of the Allenbridge Group, the Pep advisers, points out that one of the reasons is that international investors regard European shares as more attractive than most other equities around the world. He says: "Asia is still seen as rather a 'no-go' area, while the US and UK have both had good runs and there is now less liquidity in those markets."

It is not only international investors who are driving up share prices. Adrian Darley, one of Gartmore's European investment managers, points out that there is growing interest in investment in equities within Europe itself. He says: "European governments are stressing the need for more private pension provision — and pension funds, which have traditionally invested in bonds, are now looking towards equity markets to achieve better returns."

Darley admits that European shares are not cheap by historical standards, but points out that recent experience in the United States shows that this is no reason for markets to stop rising.

"There are also many good economic reasons in Europe for share prices to go up," he says. "It is nearer the beginning of the growth cycle than we are — growth of 3 per cent is forecast for this year and next. There is limited inflationary pressure and short interest rates are low compared to the UK and expected to remain low for the time being. Fiscal policy is no longer as restrictive as it was in the run-up to meeting the Maastricht criteria. All these factors are very supportive."

For UK investors another positive factor about Europe, according to Jason Hollands of the independent PEP advisers BESt Investment, is that "there is a particularly strong range of European unit trusts for investors to choose from". He adds: "Those we like especially are Fidelity European Opportunities, Gartmore European Selected Opportunities and Invesco European Growth and European Smaller Companies funds."

The Allenbridge Group also recommends the Gartmore and Invesco European Growth trusts, as well as Newton European.

On the investment trust side, both Tom Tuite-Dalton of Credit Lyonnais Securities and Nigel Sidebottom at Greig Middleton, the brokers, suggest Fleming Continental European "as a core holding" and Invesco Continental Smaller Companies. Both trusts are on modest discounts, of 7 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, so there is scope for a little extra growth if these narrow.

Mr Sidebottom is particularly keen on the Invesco trust which has recently been taken over by Claire Griffiths, who also runs the Invesco Smaller Companies unit trust. He says: "She has an excellent track record with the unit trust."

The investment trust will be managed on the same lines as the unit trust, with gearing of up to 130 per cent (this is extra money that can be borrowed to make additional investments) giving the potential for added returns but increasing the risk. Claire Griffiths is optimistic about the outlook for European smaller companies. "They are more domestically focused so are less vulnerable to any fallout from the Asian crisis and they are also positioned in good areas of the market, such as the services and technology sectors," she explains.

For fans of index tracker Peps, there are also European tracker funds available from Legal & General and HSBC. However, they have performed less well than many, though by no means all, of their actively managed counterparts.

Worth considering, though, if you wish to take up your single-company Pep allowance to gain extra exposure to Europe is Legal & General's Growth & Protection Pep. It will track the growth of a weighted average of various British, German, French and Swiss stock market indices over the next six-and-a-quarter years, to which will be added a bonus of 40 per cent of that growth.

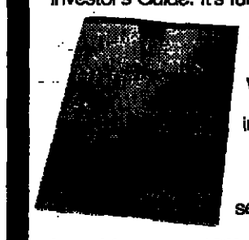
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With some $1.3 trillion of "client assets" on its books — of which $488 billion is funds under management — Merrill is well entrenched in the field of management of private clients' funds, whether in the form of cash deposits, money market funds, shares, bonds, life insurance or private banking services.

The notion of cross-selling financial services and products is outdated now, argues David Komansky, Merrill's chairman and chief executive. "The key is cross-serving — and the clients know the difference."

Merrill's acquisition of Mercury Asset Management last year was a huge step. Merrill is now fourth among worldwide asset managers. Yet Merrill currently commands a modest 18.2 price/earnings ratio. That gap will narrow when it is realised that overall fee-based income now accounts for some 50 per cent of its pre-tax profits and is increasing.

Merrill's above-average growth in earnings and dividends over the past five years and last year's 26.8 per cent return on equity were not flashes in the pan. It has the best global retail network of all and is still building it. Outside the US, convergence into EMU, big bang in Japan and the overhaul in Asia are huge growth opportunities.

Market shares in underwriting, M&A, equities and US debt still top the league tables. Asset management will inevitably grow, increasing stability and return on equity.

Stock markets fluctuate short term, and sharp declines in valuation and volume would hit Merrill — but less than in 1994 when it relied more on trading accounts. The global outlook for equities long term remains bright, with four strong trends driving growth: the increase in global capital flows, deregulation, privatisation coupled with the capital needs of emerging market economies and ageing demographics. Merrill's strength in equities is the key to capturing new business in such areas as M&A, emerging markets and asset management.

As long as it keeps a tight check on expenses, Merrill's revenues will soar. But the market has not recognised its potential earnings explosion from worldwide asset management or the gradual transformation of the business into one of the world's top three or four most powerful and innovative investment banks.

Merrill is focused on four strategic priorities: US private clients; international private clients; corporate and institutional clients; and asset management. Each has attractive opportunities for profitable growth and each also supports and strengthens the other three.

Unlike its rivals Merrill has essentially grown organically in the US but is pursuing aggressive overseas growth by acquisitions of brokerage and fund managers, such as its recent purchase of Midland Walwyn, Canada's last large independent brokerage.

Before it bought MAM, Merrill had purchased the market-maker Smith New Court, also in the UK. That transformed Merrill's strategic position in non-US equities: it now claims an 18 per cent share in trading European equities and a 25 per cent share of the turnover on the London Stock Exchange.

Merrill's culture remains entrepreneurial. It swooped on cut-price Tokyo with the purchase of the retail brokerage assets of the defunct Yamaichi Securities. That deal showed Merrill's guts, operational and financial strengths and its risk management skills beyond the trading desk.

Losses of $125 million this year and $30 million next year are modest compared with potential future profits from Japan, a huge market that is underserved.

Merrill would be a prize for a commercial bank such as Chase Manhattan, with ambitions in global investment banking.

A reverse takeover cannot be ruled out. But for now, the banks and insurance companies are no real threat in equities worldwide while Merrill has no desire to get into commercial lending.

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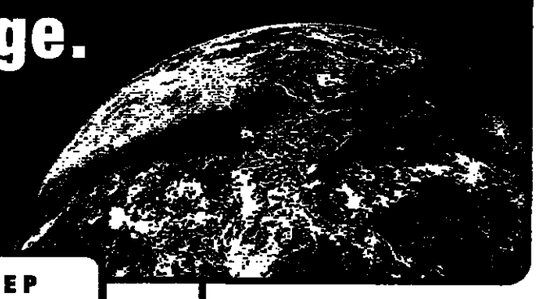
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Looking ahead: long-term prospects look good on the Merrill Lynch trading floor

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VIN McCARRA

The mobile young are discovering that buying to let can be profitable, says Matthew Barbour

Social trends fuel rise in popularity of renting

Surveys by the Halifax and Nationwide show that the rise in house prices is slowing and there is less enthusiasm among buyers to hunt out the perfect property, except in one section of the market: renting.

A report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) says there are a record number of aspiring landlords seeking houses and flats to rent, attracted by double-digit returns.

"The revival of the property market, increased demand, changes in housing legislation and easier means to finance property for rent have all brought a renewed interest in this once forbidden territory," said Giles Watson, a spokesman at the RICS. "The snowball effect is really starting to have an impact on the UK property market."

In the past year, more than 100,000 properties have been bought in the UK with the intention to let, over 30,000 more than in the previous year. In the late Eighties, when the property market was booming, the percentage of rented homes dropped to about 7 per cent. Today it is more than 11 per cent, which is still tiny compared with France or Germany's 40 per cent.

Until the 1988 Housing Act it was almost impossible for landlords to get their property back at the end of a tenancy, a factor which forced lenders to add 2 to 3 per cent to the standard variable mortgage rate. The result was a desperate shortage of good-quality property in the private rented sector.

The introduction of the assured shorthold tenancy, which gave owners the right to regain possession at the end of a fixed term, encouraged the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) to approach lenders to seek a more relaxed approach to borrowers who were buying to let. Now lenders such as the Halifax, Paragon, NatWest and Mortgage Express lend to buy-to-let investors at only 0.5 per cent or less above the standard rate. Last week Legal & General became the most recent addition to this growing list, launching three buy-to-let mortgages for homeowners buying second properties to rent.

"Lenders are starting to see letting as a professional investment, not a cottage industry," said Malcolm Harrison, a spokesman for ARLA.

He said that job mobility and changing social trends have also increased demand for rented housing. "There is a need for greater mobility as people's jobs change. Young people who don't want to settle down but want to get a foot on the property ladder can keep their options open by buying-to-let."

Alan and Jean Gwynn, both in their early 50s, had £20,000 to invest but felt that putting their money in a building society would not give them the returns they needed. Mr Gwynn said: "We read about the buy-to-let option and contacted an ARLA agent. Now, within six weeks, our first tenants have moved in on a 12-month contract.

"We bought a £67,000 two-bed flat in Bromley, next to the letting agent, and are receiving £650 a month."

Mr and Mrs Gwynn secured a 15-year mortgage, fixed rate for the first three years, and are now seeing returns on their money above 12 per cent.

"We just feel so much more in control of our investment than if we had simply bought shares. It is a long-term investment that pays for itself. We are definitely thinking of re-mortgaging the flat and doing it all over again."

Alan Reeves, their agent, says the profile of the typical investor in private rented property has changed. "It is definitely a growth area and we are getting more people who have realised that other forms of investment may have peaked." Typically, he says, property investors are in the 35 to 55 age group, and with a reasonably strong asset base, perhaps having paid off most of the mortgage on their home.

> We feel so much more in control of our investment than if we had bought shares

Christian Littlewood, a 25-year-old City stockbroker, has been investing in London properties for almost five years. She said: "By starting early, I have managed to create a portfolio of five properties, remortgaging as I have gone along. I have a return of about 15 to 20 per cent every year as well as the basic capital growth," he said.

"One mistake that people make is buying one large, up-market, property to let rather than going for several lower-market properties. For a two-bed flat in London you might get £180 a week, but for two single-bed flats you will be getting a total of £300 with a much smaller capital outlay."

Most lenders insist first-time borrowers use an ARLA agent to vet the tenant and manage the property. Agents charge on average 10 per cent of the rental for letting, rent collection and deposit clearance and 15 per cent for full management. These costs can be offset against tax.

ARLA buy-to-let helpline: 01923-896 555. Andrew Reeves: 0181-464 8566.



Rent collectors: landlords Jean and Alan Gwynn are looking at a return of more than 12 per cent on their investment

Beware the next deadline for tax

Taxpayers still recovering from the trauma of self-assessment deadlines in January should brace themselves because the second payment for the last tax year is due on July 31.

The end of July is significant also for those who missed the January deadline for submitting income tax returns. If you fail to get the return in by July 31, a new set of penalties kicks in.

If you have a tax payment to make on July 31, it is important to ensure that it is sent off, especially if you are likely to be away on holiday. Forgetting to send the cheque could mean interest being charged at 9.5 per cent.

The tax being collected is the second instalment due on income earned in the year to April 1998, and in general you will receive a statement if you are self-employed, receive income from property rental or pay higher-rate tax on dividends and other investment income.

If you think you should be paying tax but have not received a statement by about July 20 you should contact the tax office, says Elspeth May, a personal tax partner at KPMG. "Not getting a reminder is not an excuse for not paying."

It is also important to check the amount you are paying, particularly if in January you applied to reduce your payment to a lower level. Although the assessments are due on income earned in the year to April 1998, because the total amount would not have been known when the assessments were originally made, the tax liability is based on 1997 earnings.

"Some people with fluctuating income may have anticipated in January that their tax bill for 1997-98 would be much lower than the previous year and applied to reduce the January payment." says Elspeth May. But if you earned more than expected you may have underpaid.

"If you did, you are already incurring interest at 9.5 per cent a year. But this does not apply if, regardless of your level of income in 1997-98, you paid an amount equal to 50 per cent of the tax collected on your self-assessment last year."

If you had underpaid, the interest will have run from January 31 unless you had made an interim payment.

If you have still to submit your 1997-98 return and miss the July 31 deadline, you will be fined a second £100 on top of the one incurred in January.

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Over the past five years Jupiter companies have won over 70 awards; some of the major ones are shown below.

1998
Best Overall Unit Trust Company - *Money Management*
UK & Europe Fund Manager of the Year - *Money Management*
Funds For The Future (UT, Europe) - *Moneywise*
Funds For The Future (IT, International Capital Growth) - *Moneywise*
Gold Investment Provider - *FA Provider of the Year Awards*
1997
Best 10 year Group Weighted Performance - *Investment Intelligence*
Best Risk Reward Fund - European - *What PEP*
5 Year Best Unit Trust Manager (Smaller Group) - *Standard & Poor's Micropal*
Best International Capital Growth Investment Trust, 5 Years (Jupiter Primadona Growth) - *Standard & Poor's Micropal*
1 Year Best Far East ex Japan Investment Trust (Taiwan Investment) - *Standard & Poor's Micropal*
1996
Small Unit Trust Group of the Year - *Investment Adviser*
Large Investment Trust Group of the Year - *Investment Adviser*
Best Overall Trust - Primadona - *Investment Trusts*
UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - *Money Management*
Fund Management Group of the Year (1st) - *What Investment*
Best Provider - Unit Trust Fund - *Savings Market / Investment Intelligence*
1 Year UK Unit Trust Europe Sector (1st) - European - *Micropal*
1 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - *Micropal*
5 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector. (1st) - Income - *Micropal*
4 Star Investment Trust Company - *Financial Adviser / FAA Service Awards*
Five Star Unit Trust Company - *Financial Adviser / IFAA Service Awards*
1995
Best UK Growth Unit Trust - *Investment Adviser*
UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - *Money Management*
Best UK Equity Income Unit Trust - *Investment Adviser*
Best UK Unit Trust - *Money Management*
Best UK Equity Trust - UK Growth - *Money Observer*
Best UK Equity Income Trust - Income - *Money Observer*
1 Year UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - *Micropal*
5 Years UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - Income - *Micropal*
1 Year UK Unit Trusts UK EQ Income Sector (1st) - UK Growth - *Micropal*

However it is **performance** that is of real interest to investors. As you can see from the table opposite, Jupiter stands out above all the leading groups listed.

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JUPITER

UNIT TRUST GROUP PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Management Group	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs
JUPITER	15	7	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2
Fidelity	72	71	33	42	20	7	15	36	25	11
M&G	29	47	77	82	54	32	32	38	47	45
Mercury	89	94	83	72	68	54	38	42	34	26
Perpetual	96	81	72	65	49	18	18	10	7	5
Schroder	129	127	116	109	105	82	68	67	58	57

Jupiter's equity figures are concentrated in the UK and Europe sectors which, in the short term, can be more volatile than those exposed to volatile Far Eastern and other overseas markets.

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How to perk up your portfolio

It is no secret that a number of UK companies extend special privileges to their shareholders; however, this information is often not published. Premier Fund Managers have produced a booklet which reveals exactly what perks are offered and the levels of discount provided with certain levels of share ownership. For a copy of the *Shareholder Perks Guide*, send a cheque for £2.50 payable to Premier Fund Managers Limited, at Premier House, 25-27 Chertsey Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4HG.

☐ A guide to with-profit bonds, an investment provided only by insurance companies, has been produced by Towry Law, the independent financial adviser. The survey assesses the bonds currently available and provides an evaluation of key areas such as financial strength, asset backing, charges and bonus structure. A performance table is included which shows the best and worst products over five years, both with and without terminal bonus. The *With Profit Bond Survey* is available free by calling 0345-868 244.

☐ A financial book-exchange has been launched, enabling Internet users to sell, swap or lend second-hand financial and investment books. The service has been set up by The Global Investor Bookshop which specialises in selling new finance books. The idea for the Internet exchange was prompted by the large volume of requests from investors looking for out-of-print books. The Financial Book Exchange is free and can be found at http://www.global-investor.com/forums.

☐ A practical guide for both parents and advisers to all aspects of child support has been published by the Child Poverty Action Group. Updated and revised for 1998-99, the *Child Support Handbook* examines the current Child Support Agency (CSA) scheme and its implications. The book explains who can apply for maintenance and who has to pay, how to apply, the powers of the CSA, the benefit penalty, the formula for calculating payment, plus reviews, appeals and how to make complaints. The handbook costs £11.95 (or £3.50 to benefit claimants). Send a cheque to CPAG, at 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PY.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at July 10, 1998

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	6.31
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
2 Years			
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.15
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.30
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.56
3 Years			
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
4 Years			
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	5,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.30
5 Years			
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.20

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	InvestDirect	Postal	£1	7.30	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	InstantT	£1,000	7.50	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	Direct Access	Postal	£5,000	7.55	Yly
Northern Rock 0845 600 6767	Save Dir Inst	InstantB	£5,000	7.80	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	Post-tel 40	40 day B	£5,000	7.80	Yly
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	50 Day Notice	50 day T	£1	7.55	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 5	60 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	1 Yr Option Bnd	1 year	£5,000	8.00	F/OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX-FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Ipswich BS 01473 211021		5 year	£100	8.05	Yly
SAGA (for over 50s) 0800 300555		5 year	£3,000	8.05	Yly
Midland Bank 0800 180180		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly
Norwich & Peterborough 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Nationwide BS 0500 302011	Visa	0.68%N	8.50%N	Nil

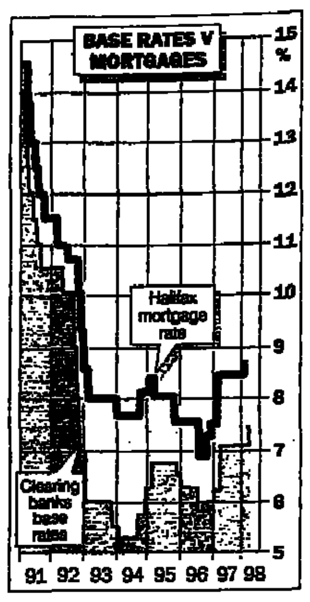
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

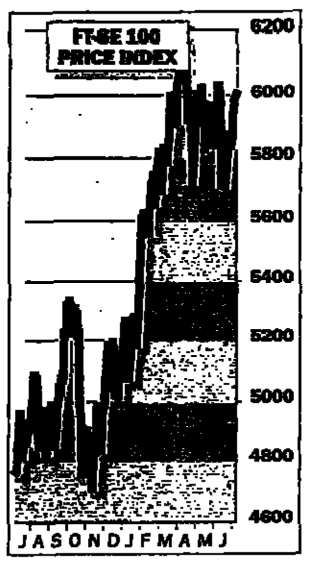
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.14	£165.56
Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122	12.50%	£190.33	£165.77
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 476747)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum Investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[6]	5.00	4.00	3.00	1-499**[7]	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*[6]	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.75	5.40	4.05	1-250k**		0645 645000
46th Issue Cert†[2][3]	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond[5]	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked†[2]	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5[6]	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000[6]	60day	0645 645000

*[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years [3] 0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [4] £100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings [5] Taxable but cred in full [6] £500-100,000 earn higher rates **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,346	£ 9,499	£11,052
Equitable Life ......Level	£ 8,333	£ 9,356	£10,757
Commercial Un....Level	£ 8,102	£ 9,342	£10,972
Legal & General...Level	£ 8,281	£ 9,324	£10,642
Sun Life of Can....Level	£ 8,171	£ 9,253	£10,719

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,628	£ 8,375	£ 9,449
Sun Life ....Level	£7,501	£ 8,340	£ 9,543
Norwich Union......Level	£7,574	£ 8,333	£ 9,553
Canada Life ....Level	£7,395	£ 8,243	£ 9,463
Scottish Widows ..Level	£7,460	£ 8,210	£ 9,290

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,250	£7,841	£ 8,666
Sun Life ....Level	£7,089	£7,753	£ 8,678
Norwich Union......Level	£7,140	£7,709	£ 8,454
Prudential ....Level	£7,163	£7,688	£ 8,461
Canada Life ....Level	£6,961	£7,624	£ 8,547

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	136.75	6.86	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	169.50	6.86	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	189.00	6.88	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	186.50	6.97	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	177.50	6.83	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	167.00	7.04	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	193.75	6.90	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	160.50	6.70	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	187.75	6.72	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	190.50	6.76	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	171.25	6.86	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	123.50	7.09	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	160.75	7.47	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	198.00	6.88	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	190.50	7.02	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	179.00	7.05	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source:* Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	no max	95	0% for 2 mths, 2% disc 10 mths
Bank of Ireland 0800 109010	4.89	£100-500k	75	Fixed to 1.7.00 £280 fee
Abbey National 0800 555100	4.95	£0-125k	90	Fixed to 31.8.00 £300 fee
Halifax 01422 333333	4.95	No max	90	Fixed to 31.8.00 £295 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.99	£20-300k	80	Fixed to 1.8.00 0.5% fee, £300max

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Scotland 0645 812812	0.00	any	95	0% for 2 mths, 2% disc-10 mths
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-175k	95	8% disc-6 mths, more discs apply
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	to £250k	95	Fixed for 1 yr 0.75% loan fee
Leeds & Holbeck[1] 08000 725726	1.65	to £180k	95	Fixed to 1.8.99 £295 fee
Staffordshire[1] 01902 317485	1.99	to £200k	90	Fixed to 1.9.99 £395 fee

NB. [1] Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Dudley 01384 231414	5.20	to £150k	95	3% disc-12 mths, more discs apply
Wesleyan Hm Lns[1] 0800 228855	5.60	to £100k	95	3.25% disc-12mths
Halifax 01422 333333	5.65	no max	95	Fixed to 31.8.00 £195 fee
Alliance & Leic[1] 0345 108108	5.70	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.8.00 £150 fee
Sun Bank Ltd 01438 744604	5.75	£25-125k	95	Fixed to 30.6.00, £495 fee

NB. [1] Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	628.60	665.20	+2.80	...
UK Equity	892.90	944.90	+1.80	...
Property	503.10	532.40	+17.00	...
Fixed Interest	380.50	402.70	+2.90	...
Money	289.60	306.50	-0.30	...
International	539.10	570.50	-5.60	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	235.70	248.20	+1.20	...
Ethical S4	205.40	216.30	+11.30	...
International S4	249.40	262.60	+5.10	...
Protected Gth S4	136.90	144.20	+0.20	...
Asian Pacific	121.20	127.60	-1.40	...
European S4	341.40	359.40	+5.80	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	471.50	496.40	-0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	355.90	374.70	-15.40	...
Man Ser 4	957.60	1008.00	+5.70	...
Conv Ser 4	380.20	400.30	+6.70	...
Money Ser 4	379.80	399.80	+6.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	469.70	494.50	+15.60	...
American Ser 4	976.40	1027.80	+84.60	...
High Inc Ser 4	1114.50	1173.20	+56.00	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	280.70	295.50	-21.00	...
Japan Ser 4	238.00	250.60	-17.70	...
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	928.50	982.60	+4.20	...
British Fund	972.50	1029.20	-4.60	...
International	843.10	892.20	-8.60	...
Dollar Fund	836.70	885.40	-20.70	...
Capital Fund	770.20	815.10	-0.30	...
Income Fund	1207.30	1277.60	-4.60	...
Property Series A	601.00	636.00	...	4.40
Property Units	1006.80	1057.20	...	...
Financial Fund	1175.40	1243.90	+13.30	...
Managed Ser A	841.60	890.60	-0.30	...
Managed Units	1526.20	1606.60	+0.80	...
High Yield Fund	1081.40	1144.40	+0.60	...
Money Series A	336.30	355.90	-0.40	...
Money Units	451.90	475.70	+0.50	...
Equity Fund	984.10	1041.40	-0.30	...
Fixed Interest	503.00	532.30	-4.00	...
Indexed Secs	240.70	254.80	+0.40	...
European Fund	1445.90	1530.10	+20.90	...
Natural Res	233.80	247.50	-3.80	...
Far East Fund	409.90	433.80	-3.40	...
Smaller Cos	756.00	800.00	-5.60	...
Special Sits	859.60	909.70	-2.30	...
Man Currency	302.50	320.20	+0.90	...
Japanese Tech	232.10	245.70	+1.90	...
US Smaller Cos	564.30	597.30	+1.60	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	286.30	301.40	+0.30	...
Financial Ser 1	96.70	101.80	+1.60	...
Fixed Interest	422.30	444.60	-1.30	...
Gold	57.90	61.00	-0.60	...
Managed	919.80	967.20	-0.50	...
Mixed Growth	296.00	311.60	-0.10	...
Property	407.00	428.50	...	...
Residential Prop	126.70	133.40	...	...
TSB American	474.60	499.60	-12.30	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1503.10	1582.30	-2.40	...
TSB European	524.10	551.70	-5.90	...
TSB Income	699.40	736.30	-0.60	...
TSB Intl	635.50	669.00	-7.90	...
TSB Pacific	287.10	302.20	...	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	435.60	458.60	-0.40	...
Equity Acc	2209.00	2326.50	-1.90	...
Property Acc	805.10	848.00	-0.90	...
Far East Acc	208.80	219.80	-2.10	...
Managed Capital	751.60	791.20	-1.70	...
-do- Acc	1657.70	1745.00	-4.00	...
Overseas Acc	1624.50	1710.40	-10.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	668.80	704.00	-1.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	1613.00	1697.90	-31.20	...
Amer Man Acc	663.90	698.80	-12.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	131.40	138.40	-2.50	...
Distribution Bonds	29.80	31.40	...	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	195.60	205.90	...	
Balncd Ser 6	1087.30	1144.60	+7.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	259.00	272.70	+1.80	...
Distribution Ser 6	121.10	127.50	+0.30	5.78
UK Equities Ser 6	1693.90	1783.10	-0.50	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1838.00	1934.80	+14.00	...
North Amer Ser 6	800.40	842.60	+18.90	...
Far East Ser 6	399.60	420.70	-0.80	...
Europe Ser 6	762.90	803.10	-20.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	810.00	852.50	+14.90	...
Property Ser 6	647.20	681.30	-0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	559.60	589.10	-0.30	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	239.50	252.20	-0.20	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	346.00	364.30	+0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1464.30	1541.60	-10.60	...
-do- Initial	853.10	898.10	-6.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	527.50	555.30	-1.60	...
-do- Initial	310.00	326.40	+1.00	...
International Acc	535.90	564.20	+4.90	...
-do- Initial	313.10	329.50	+2.90	...
Managed Acc	799.90	842.10	...	...
-do- Initial	468.80	493.50	...	...
Money Acc	337.20	355.10	+0.40	...
Property Acc	365.00	384.30	-0.10	...
-do- Initial	214.30	225.60		
America Acc	580.60	611.20	+15.30	...
Far East Gwth	126.70	133.40	-2.00	...
Financial Acc	670.20	715.00	-6.20	...
SIO Accum	631.00	664.30	-3.90	...
Japan Acc	171.20	180.30	-4.60	...
Income Acc	889.10	893.20	-4.00	...
Special Sits Acc	455.90	479.90	-2.80	...
Unit Tech Acc	229.00	241.10	+1.90	...
For Black Horse Life see Lloyds TSB Life				
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	253.50	266.20	+0.20	...
Performance Plus	307.20	325.00	+3.90	...
With Profit Perf	206.40	218.40	+0.30	...
UK Opportunity	347.50	367.60	-2.10	...
Euro Opportunity	423.70	448.20	+6.20	...
North Amer Opp	360.20	381.10	+16.60	...
Far East Opp	149.40	158.10	-0.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	195.10	205.30	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	256.60	271.50	...	...
Fixed Int	272.70	288.50	+0.80	...
Cash	183.60	194.20	+0.20	...
Overseas	354.10	374.60	+4.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	530.90	558.90	+0.50	...
UK Equity	1051.10	1106.50	-6.40	...
Property	354.20	372.90	+0.10	...
Money Market	290.90	306.30	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	396.10	417.00	+1.20	...
Japan	257.80	271.40	-4.00	...
North America	320.50	337.40	+14.70	...
International	547.10	575.90	+7.00	...
European	541.80	570.40	+7.90	...
Far East	110.60	116.50	+0.20	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	496.00	522.20	+3.10	...
Property	326.60	343.80	+0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	313.30	329.80	+0.10	...
Equity	631.90	665.20	+1.90	...
Cash	247.40	260.50	+0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	651.30	685.60	+10.90	...
CLife Intl Fd	422.40	444.70	-9.90	...
Managed Fund	1059.10	1114.80	+6.60	...
Property Fund	652.90	687.30	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	1559.30	1641.40	+4.50	...
Gilt Edged Fd	808.30	850.80	+0.30	...
Deposit Fund	382.00	402.10	+0.40	...
Investment Fd	704.70	740.00	-2.70	...
International	672.20	707.60	-15.60	...
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2427.40	2555.10	-11.70	...
Merc European	728.30	766.60	-6.70	...
Merc Fxd Int	665.90	700.90	+2.70	...
Gtd Money	386.40	406.70	-0.40	...
Mercury Intl Mgd	889.40	936.20	+3.20	...
Merc Int Fxd Int	398.50	419.40	+3.30	...
Mercury Japan	190.80	200.80	-3.70	...
Merc Nth Amer	613.30	645.50	-16.50	...
UK Property	540.70	569.10	+1.10	...
Merc Multip Inv	1479.10	1556.80	+1.80	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	228.40	240.50	...	...
Managed Fund	981.60	1033.30	+9.70	...
Equity Fund	630.60	663.80	+4.60	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	433.60	456.50	+0.10	...
Ruby	236.50	249.00	+1.10	...
Emerald	185.20	195.00	+0.40	...
Equity	543.20	572.00	-2.80	...
Property	270.80	285.10	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	273.60	288.30	+1.00	...
Indexed Secs	223.30	235.10	-0.50	...
Cash	216.70	228.20	+0.20	...
Nth American	478.30	503.50	-10.40	...
Far East	226.40	238.60	-0.10	...
International	334.60	352.30	+3.10	...
Special Sits	610.30	642.50	+4.70	...
Intl Income	521.40	548.90	+2.80	...
European	665.50	700.60	+10.40	...
Japanese	92.70	97.60	-0.20	...
SE Asia	265.10	279.10	-6.80	...
With Profits Reg	205.20	216.00	-0.30	...
-do- Spec	205.20	216.00	+0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	522.80	550.40	+0.10	...
Equity	705.40	742.60	-3.90	...
Property	263.00	277.80	+0.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	367.10	386.50	+1.70	...
Index Linked	245.00	257.90	-0.70	...
Cash	303.40	319.40	-0.20	...
Nth American	638.30	672.00	-16.60	...
Far East Acc	223.60	235.40	-2.00	...
International Acc	429.00	451.60	+4.70	...
Special Sits	942.30	991.90	-10.00	...
European Flex	1000.60	1053.30	+18.10	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Unit)' Key 1	276.72	...	-5.48	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	472.38	...	-6.38	...
-do- Cash	231.78	243.98	+0.15	...
-do- Equity	876.50	922.64	+13.12	...
-do- Fxd Int	470.28	495.04	+2.01	...
-do- Managed	604.45	636.27	+8.71	...
-do- Property	477.37	502.50	-3.97	...
(Pensr Cash Cap	223.13	234.89	+0.14	...
-do- Cash Inv	370.52	390.03	+0.49	...
-do- Equity Cap	2228.58	2345.88	-14.20	...
-do- Equity Inv	3700.56	3895.34	-20.95	...
-do- Fixed Cap	504.62	531.18	+2.11	...
-do- Fixed Inv	837.92	882.03	+4.11	...
-do- Index Cap	249.55	262.69	-0.95	...
-do- Index Inv	414.38	436.20	-1.68	...
-do- Mngd Cap	866.64	912.26	-5.34	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1439.06	1514.81	-8.17	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (9)‡	1364.05	...	+17.17	...
Var Ann (9)‡	143.04	...	-4.03	...
Prime Managed	607.20	639.20	-0.20	...
Prime UK Equity	835.50	879.50	-3.80	...
Prime Int Equity	393.10	413.80	+3.60	...
Prime Property	290.20	305.50	+0.70	...
Prime Fxd Int	297.50	313.20	+1.40	...
Prime Index-Lnk	221.60	233.30	+0.70	...
Prime Cash	237.70	250.30	+0.30	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1616.40	1701.40	+29.00	...
Equity II	2574.80	2710.30	-46.90	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut Wth Pfts (5&6)‡	123.70	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2)‡	116.20	...	-0.20	...
Managed (3)‡	146.20	...	+0.40	...
Equity Mngd (3)‡	147.70	...	+0.40	...
Adventurous (3)‡	137.40	...	+1.30	...
Bristol & West (3)‡	118.70	...	-0.20	...
Equity Mgd S1	356.00	374.80	+0.90	...
Managed S1	350.20	368.70	+1.00	...
Adventurous S1	280.40	295.20	+2.80	...
Managed (2)	238.80	251.40	+0.70	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	471.50	488.70	-1.20	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)‡	125.40	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2)‡	118.20	...	-0.10	...
Managed (2)‡	149.70	...	+0.40	...
Equity Mngd (2)‡	153.80	...	+0.40	...
Adventurous (2)‡	140.20	...	+1.50	...
Bristol & West (2)‡	121.30	...	-0.30	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	485.20	510.00	+2.40	9.00
UK Equity	691.50	727.00	-2.60	3.00
Stewardship	552.10	581.00	+1.10	...
Overseas Equity	451.10	474.00	+10.10	6.00
North American	288.90	304.00	-9.20	7.00
Pacific Basin	115.50	121.00	-1.00	9.00
European	514.10	541.00	+17.20	9.00
Property	220.00	231.00	-0.80	...
Fixed Interest	313.60	330.00	-1.10	4.00
Index Linked	222.30	234.00	-0.80	...
Cash	234.40	246.00	-0.60	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	698.50	735.00	+2.40	...
Managed	1090.30	1147.00	+1.00	5.00
Deposit	401.10	422.00	+0.30	...
Property	615.00	647.00	-0.20	...
American	821.80	865.00	-27.50	4.00
Australian	644.60	678.00	+7.40	4.00
European	1268.50	1335.00	+38.00	5.00
Income Acc	1271.50	1338.00	-0.50	1.00
-do- Dist	684.90	720.00	-0.90	6.00
International	472.20	497.00	+5.90	3.00
Japan Smaller	250.80	264.00	+1.80	2.00
Singapore & Mal	223.50	235.00	-3.80	4.00
Tokyo Fund	522.20	549.00	-3.60	6.00
UK Equity	975.60	1026.00	-0.60	8.00
CCM Vanged Mg	1139.70	1199.00	-0.30	8.00
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	197.70	208.20	+1.20	...
GT Plan Wwide	630.60	663.80	+11.30	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	919.30	919.30	-2.00	...
-do- Inv A	919.20	967.70	-2.10	...
UK Equity	636.40	670.00	-10.70	...
Gilt Plus	254.10	267.60	+1.20	...
Managed	422.20	444.50	-0.90	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	314.20	330.70	+0.30	...
Unitised Profit	176.00	185.20	+0.20	...
UK Equity	490.70	516.40	-1.30	...
Fixed Int	251.40	264.50	+0.80	...
Index-Linked	214.90	226.10	+0.70	...
Cash Deposit	201.20	211.60	+0.20	...
Property	216.70	228.00	+0.20	...
International	244.00	256.80	+0.90	...
American	328.10	345.20	+7.50	...
Japan	162.30	170.70	-1.60	...
Japan Smllr Cos	166.20	174.80	-3.70	...
European	338.00	355.70	+2.60	...
Pacific Fund	157.40	165.60	-2.70	...
Com Life	206.80	217.60	+1.70	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	718.40	756.20	+0.70	...
Managed Initial	431.00	453.70	+0.20	...
Equity Ord	1241.90	1307.30	-3.10	...
Equity Init	745.00	784.20	-2.40	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	262.20	276.00	-0.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	164.30	172.90	+0.50	...
Oseas Equity Ord	504.00	530.50	+3.70	...
Oseas Equity Init	302.40	318.30	+2.10	...
Property Ord	336.90	354.60	-0.30	...
Property Init	202.10	212.70		...
Fixed Int Ord	368.00	387.40	+1.30	...
Fixed Int Init	220.80	232.40	+0.90	...
Deposit Ord	240.20	252.80	-0.30	...
Deposit Initial	144.10	151.70	+0.10	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
AM Prop Bds	1016.10	1098.50		...
Managed Initial	652.80	687.20	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	1000.30	1052.90	+0.90	...
Equity Initial	1089.40	1147.20	-8.60	...
-do- Acc	1669.90	1757.70	-13.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	545.20	573.90	+2.70	...
-do- Acc	835.30	879.30	+3.90	...
Intl Initial	585.10	615.90	-9.20	...
-do- Acc	896.50	943.70	-14.20	...
Nth Amer Initial	348.40	366.80	-8.60	...
-do- Acc	485.90	511.40	-12.00	...
Pacific Initial	129.90	136.70	-1.50	...
-do- Acc	179.40	188.80	-2.10	...
Property Initial	209.40	220.50	...	...
-do- Acc	320.90	337.80	...	...
Index-Linkd Initl	196.70	207.10	+0.90	...
-do- Acc	274.30	288.70	+1.10	...
Deposit Initial	214.80	226.10	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	329.10	346.40	+0.40	...
Euro Initial	191.00	201.10	+4.50	...
-do- Acc	246.30	259.10	+5.80	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.78	40.82	+0.13	...
Balanced	38.53	40.56	+0.14	...
Opportunity	39.70	41.79	+0.18	...
Deposit	27.45	28.89	+0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	31.07	32.71	+0.24	...
Balanced S2	31.16	32.80	+0.15	...
Opportunity S2	30.91	32.54	+0.34	...
Deposit S2	26.07	27.44	+0.04	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	253.90	267.20	+1.90	...
-do- Pens	338.50	356.10	-2.90	...
UK Equity	298.30	314.00	-0.30	...
-do- Pens	379.70	399.60	-0.20	...
International	199.40	209.80	+4.50	...
-do- Pens	226.80	238.70	+6.00	...
Deposit	161.60	170.10	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	200.20	210.70	-0.20	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	871.40	917.40	-9.30	...
Global Property	368.10	387.50	...	...
Global Fixed Int	685.70	721.50	+2.90	...
Global Equity	963.10	1013.80	+11.30	...
Global Cash	248.00	261.00	+0.20	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Ink	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	207.60	218.60	+0.20	...
Brit Opps Int	221.40	233.10	-2.00	...
-do- Acc	306.10	322.30	-2.70	...
Cash Initial	174.70	183.90	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	334.90	352.60	+0.40	...
Equity Initial	1040.10	1094.90	-5.70	...
-do- Acc	1994.00	2099.00	-10.90	...
Fixed Initial	411.50	433.20	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	789.00	830.60	+3.20	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	162.30	170.90	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	265.40	279.40	+0.50	...
Intl Initial	381.60	401.70	+1.40	...
-do- Acc	720.40	758.40	+2.90	...
Managed Initial	651.00	685.30	-0.30	...
-do- Acc	1248.00	1313.70	-0.80	...
Property Initial	247.50	260.60	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	474.60	499.60	+0.60	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£234.00	...	-104.70	...
Property Units	3410.60	3590.00	+2.60	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	9721.30	10102.30	-1.10	...
2nd Equity Acc	1057.20	1112.70	-5.30	...
2nd High Inc Ac	1012.70	1065.80	+3.70	...
2nd Property Acc	305.00	321.00	+0.20	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	227.80	239.70	+0.40	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	672.60	707.90	-0.10	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	301.00	316.70	-0.20	...
2nd Deposit Acc	328.20	345.50	+0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	394.50	415.10	+1.50	...
2nd Amer Acc	1201.30	1264.40	+20.90	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	253.00	266.20	+1.90	...
2nd Index Acc	263.70	277.50	-0.80	...
2nd Far East Acc	203.30	213.90	-3.30	...
2nd Global Acc	207.90	218.70	+1.00	...
2nd Euro Acc	296.50	312.00	+3.10	...
2nd Japan Acc	108.30	113.90	-2.20	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	180.50	189.90	+1.40	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	194.40	204.50	-0.50	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	649.80	683.90	+0.40	...
Managed	604.80	636.30	-0.10	...
American	715.10	752.60	+12.40	...
UK Equity Fd	767.60	807.90	-3.80	...
Japan	119.20	125.40	-2.50	...
Index-Lkd	236.20	248.50	+0.70	...
High Yield	1407.10	1481.10	-5.20	...
Money	466.20	490.60	+0.40	...
International	467.20	491.70	+2.30	...
Perpetual Active	440.30	463.40	+4.20	...
Growth Acc	945.30	994.90	-0.20	...
Gilt Edged	558.80	588.10	+2.10	...
European	270.50	284.70	+2.80	...
Far East	107.60	113.30	-1.70	...
LLOYDS TSB LIFE Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent 01634 834000				
Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series				
Balanced	1101.51	1159.49	-0.46	...
Cash	327.56	344.80	-0.31	...
Contl Euro Gth	259.90	273.75	+11.01	...
Extra Income	1129.31	1188.75	+5.17	...
Fixed Interest	440.01	463.17	+0.99	...
German Growth	433.04	455.84	-14.40	...
Income	1253.90	1319.90	+1.75	...
Japan Growth	129.80	136.64	+2.32	...
Managed Inv	727.00	765.27	+5.55	...
N Amer & Genl	706.86	744.07	-24.90	...
Nth Amer Recov	399.97	421.03	+3.04	...
Pacific Basin	229.17	241.24	-1.00	...
Property	471.08	495.88	+0.71	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1214.66	1278.59	-5.49	...
The UK Gth Fd	358.24	372.10	+0.70	...
Worldwide Gth	732.24	770.78	+15.05	...
Life Funds-Series One				
Income	1276.07	1343.24	+1.53	...
Managed Inv	741.06	780.07	+5.56	...
Life Funds				
Managed	1234.53	1234.53	+8.69	...
Pension Funds				
Cash Pen	219.88	231.46	+0.28	...
European Pen	452.51	476.33	+22.14	...
Far East Pen	88.59	93.26	-0.41	...
Fixed Int Pen	258.00	271.58	+0.62	...
FTSE 100	170.22	179.18	+0.21	...
Managed Pen	356.67	375.45	+3.02	...
Nth Amer Pen	381.27	401.34	+15.32	...
Property Pen	288.55	303.74	+0.47	...
UK Equity Pen	340.24	358.15	+0.30	...
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity ‡	1496.50	...	-1.30	...
Fixed Interest ‡	580.50	...	+1.80	...
Property ‡	515.30	...	+0.50	...
Deposit ‡	345.10	...	+0.30	...
Mixed ‡	886.10	...	+2.20	...
Indexed Stock ‡	298.10	...	+0.30	...
International ‡	363.70	...	+3.50	...
Equity A ‡	345.40	...	-0.30	...
Fixed Int A ‡	256.30	...	+0.80	...
Property A ‡	225.40	...	+0.30	...
Deposit A ‡	201.80	...	+0.10	...
Mixed A ‡	289.70	...	+0.70	...
Index Stock A ‡	232.30	...	+0.20	...
International A ‡	226.10	...	+2.20	...
Equity P ‡	1350.70	...	-2.70	...
Fixed Int P ‡	806.60	...	+1.90	...
Property P ‡	390.80	...	+0.20	...
Deposit P ‡	419.00	...	+0.30	...
Mixed P ‡	863.40	...	+1.50	...
Index Stock P ‡	344.40	...	+0.10	...
International P ‡	448.40	...	+5.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	715.50	...	+6.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	1406.40	...	-13.40	...
Property Cap ‡	141.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	264.80	...	-0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	221.10	...	-0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	417.10	...	+1.10	...
Equity Cap ‡	472.20	...	+0.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	910.00	...	+1.90	...
Internatl Cap ‡	280.00	...	+5.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	532.20	...	+11.10	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	199.00	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	297.80	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	453.70	...	+2.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	869.40	...	+6.00	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	650.30	...	+4.70	...
Capital Growth ‡	2972.30	...	+15.20	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	716.90	752.90	+4.10	...
Amer Rec Bond	817.00	858.00	+14.20	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	333.80	350.50	+4.70	...
Australasia Bd	273.80	287.60	+0.10	...
Commodity Bond	305.20	320.50	-1.10	...
Deposit Bond Acc	418.70	439.70	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	2305.10	2420.40	-5.30	...
European Bd Acc	777.00	815.90	+3.20	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1251.30	1314.00	+0.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc	587.60	617.10	-2.00	...
Gold Bond Acc	113.10	118.90	-0.80	...
High Yield Bond	500.20	525.30†	-3.80	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	269.30	282.80	+0.10	...
International Bd	992.20	1041.90	+3.00	...
Japan Bond Acc	149.10	156.70	-0.30	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	169.40	178.00	-5.00	...
Managed Bonds	1280.70	1344.90	+9.20	...
Prop Bond Acc	569.80	598.10	-14.40	...
Rec Bond Acc	1220.10	1281.20	-7.10	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	200.80	210.90	-4.60	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	348.00	367.30	-1.30	...
UK Equity Acc	558.10	587.50	-1.70	...
Special Sits	147.50	155.30	-0.20	...
Special Sits Acc	236.00	248.50	-0.30	...
North American	305.40	321.50	+6.40	...
N American Acc	488.70	514.50	+10.70	...
Pacific Basin	233.00	245.30	-4.10	...
Pacific Basin Acc	372.80	392.50	-6.30	...
Fixed Interest	332.40	349.90	+1.00	...
Fixed Interest Acc	532.40	560.50	+2.00	...
Property	204.80	215.60	-0.10	...
Property Acc	328.00	345.30	...	...
Deposit	158.10	166.50	...	...
Deposit Acc	253.70	266.70	+0.20	...
Managed	356.90	375.70	-0.20	...
Managed Acc	526.00	553.70	...	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9260 366				
Property	503.30	529.70	+13.10	...
UK Equity	609.60	641.60	+0.70	...
Gilt Edged	816.60	859.50	+1.20	...
Interest Fund	466.00	490.50	+0.50	...
Managed Fd	699.30	736.10	+4.00	...
Intl Equity	783.00	824.20	+9.00	...
North American	383.50	403.60	+8.00	...
Far East	302.20	318.10	+2.10	...
Intl Currency	288.40	303.50	+0.00	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	711.60	749.10	-1.20	...
UK Equity	1084.80	1141.80	-9.60	...
Overseas Equity	595.30	626.60	+7.60	...
Americas	692.70	729.10	+14.60	...
Far East	361.50	380.50	-3.50	...
Property	256.50	270.00	-0.10	...
Fixed Interest	511.90	538.80	+2.40	...
Indexed Gilt	309.10	325.30	+1.30	...
Deposit	253.20	266.50	+0.20	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	203.90	214.50	-0.10	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2289.60	2410.10	+3.70	...
Equity Fund	5475.50	5763.70	-10.50	...
Property Fd	790.70	832.30	-1.20	...
Fixed Int Fd	807.70	850.20	+3.80	...
Deposit Fund	412.10	433.80	+0.50	...
Ind Fund	361.90	380.90	+2.50	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	484.00	510.60	+0.40	...
Fxd Interest Acc	321.40	339.10	+1.70	...
International Acc	364.10	384.10	+6.40	...
Managed Acc	324.70	342.60	+0.10	...
Property Acc	236.10	249.10	+0.10	...
Money Acc	177.80	187.60	-0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	271.60	286.60	-0.80	...
Japan Equity Acc	72.00	76.00	-1.60	...
N Amer Acc	326.50	344.50	+12.10	...
Pacific Acc	86.20	91.00	-1.10	...
European Acc	351.50	370.80	+3.90	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	154.90	163.10	+0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	400.40	421.50	+0.50	...
Inv Equity	2153.10	2266.50	-7.60	...
Inv Managed	1358.70	1430.30	+2.40	...
Ret Managed	1586.80	1670.40	+1.90	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 578334				
Managed	533.00	555.30	+11.30	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	1195.70	1258.70	+5.90	...
Equity Fund	2779.90	2926.30	+15.60	...
Intl Fund	857.80	903.00	+2.50	...
Fixed Interest	732.90	771.50	+4.20	...
Property Fund	577.60	608.00	+0.70	...
Cash Fund	422.60	444.90	+0.40	...
Pacific Basin	266.90	281.00	-1.50	...
N American Fd	520.20	547.60	+3.40	...
Euro Fund	583.10	613.80	+7.00	...
Balanced Fund	235.50	247.90	+1.10	...
Strategic Fund	265.20	279.20	+0.60	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)‡	1156.70	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	600.93	632.57	-1.95	...
Op Prop	561.20	590.70	-0.50	...
Op Equity	1653.50	1740.50	-3.80	...
Op High Yield	790.70	832.30	+3.30	...
Op Managed	1215.80	1279.80	+7.60	...
Op Deposit	454.80	478.70	+0.40	...
Japan Smlr	123.00	129.50	+0.60	...
Managed Gth	413.60	435.30	+7.40	...
British	599.20	630.70	+2.50	...
Global Bond	125.40	132.00	+2.20	...
Gold Share	57.10	60.10	+3.90	...
Japan	248.30	261.40	-10.20	...
UK Smlr Cos	704.20	741.30	-5.10	...
Mngd Growth	672.30	707.70	+8.00	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	587.00	617.80	+3.50	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	110.50	117.00	+0.30	1.75
Deposit Fund (2)	443.90	469.30	+0.90	7.13
Gilt Fund	692.20	731.20	+3.10	6.84
Global Equity Fd	311.60	329.80	-3.50	...
Property Fund (46)	141.30	149.60	-0.30	6.20
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	983.20	1035.00	-4.20	...
Fixed Interest	474.30	499.30	-0.20	...
Index-Linked	252.90	266.30	+0.90	...
International	576.10	606.50	+8.00	...
Property	370.30	389.80	+4.00	...
Cash	263.50	277.40	+0.20	...
Managed	670.40	706.10	+1.20	...
Cap Gteed Bd	207.20	218.10	-0.60	...
95% Safeguard	114.50	...	-0.40	...
100% Safeguard	106.00	...	+0.30	...
Wealth Pres Cap	120.10	...	...	...
Wealth Pres Inc	53.20	...	+10.30	...
BonusBond ‡	114.20	...	-0.30	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	211.15	222.26	+0.25	...
Index-Linked	217.90	229.40	+0.90	...
Fixed Interest	243.50	256.30	-1.10	...
Mixed	396.40	417.30	-0.20	...
UK Equity	397.60	418.50	-1.40	...
International	379.00	399.10	-0.40	...
American	558.10	587.40	+13.80	...
Japan	169.80	178.70	-3.60	...
European	521.70	549.10	-4.90	...
Pacific	229.10	241.10	-2.10	...
Technology	730.90	778.80	-21.10	...
Frgn Bd/Crrcy	255.80	269.30	+2.60	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	279.80	294.70	+0.30	...
UK Equity	639.60	673.30	-3.40	...
American	480.60	506.00	+9.40	...
Pacific	251.70	265.00	-3.10	...
European	864.30	909.80	+14.40	...
Global Mgd	395.30	416.20	+3.20	...
Fixed Interest	319.60	336.50	+1.10	...
Index Linked	264.90	279.00	+0.20	...
Deposit	227.20	239.30	+0.30	...
Managed	433.20	456.10	...	...
Worldwide	148.70	156.60	+1.30	...
Pen Worldwide	162.40	171.00	-1.50	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2603.90	2684.40	...	...
Safety Fund	323.40	340.50	-0.80	...
Growth Fund	357.70	376.60	+1.30	...
Opportunity Fd	362.00	381.10	+0.70	...
Cash Fund	201.60	212.20	+0.20	...
European Fund	683.50	719.50	+10.20	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	278.00	292.70	+0.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	236.30	248.80	+0.70	...
International Fd	390.00	410.60	+6.40	...
North American	482.60	508.00	+15.60	...
Property Fund	141.40	148.90	-1.10	...
UK Equity	424.70	447.10	-1.60	...
UK Smaller	330.60	348.00	-5.30	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	409.50	431.20	+1.10	...
Equity	474.70	499.80	...	...
International	371.40	391.00	-2.60	...
Property	282.10	297.00	...	...
Fixed Interest	343.70	361.90	+1.00	...
Index Linked	242.70	255.50	+1.50	...
Cash	214.10	225.50	+0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1213.60	1291.10	+2.00	...
Cash Fund	390.90	412.00	-0.50	...
Property Fund	366.00	385.70	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	1234.60	1313.50	+9.70	...
Fxd Interest Fund	663.10	698.80	-1.20	...
International	523.40	558.90	+4.10	...
High Income	1176.20	1251.30	-1.40	...
Far East	397.40	422.80	-3.30	...
North American	994.30	1057.80	+19.60	...
Special Sits	1112.70	1183.80	-1.80	...
Technology	1286.10	1368.20	-23.60	...
Extra Income Fd	641.60	682.60	-0.40	...
Gilt Fund	571.00	607.50	+0.70	...
European	280.80	298.80	+3.80	...
Adventurous Mg	291.60	307.30	+1.80	...
Secure Mgd	213.90	225.50	+0.20	...
Equity Inc Dist	166.30	175.30	-0.10	4.56
Managed Dist	143.40	151.20	-0.10	4.88
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	508.40	540.90	-0.50	...
North America	637.30	678.00	-20.40	...
Far East Fund	394.30	419.50	-1.90	...
Global Managed	676.30	719.50	-6.10	...
Deposit Fund	263.70	277.60	-0.30	...
Prime Residential	151.30	159.50		...
European Fund	529.30	563.10	+20.20	...
Fixed Interest	66.30	70.60	+0.40	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1632.90	1632.90	+3.50	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1470.70	1548.20	+3.30	...
Inv Pol 3	1380.30	1453.10	-3.10	...
Inv Cash	365.80	385.10	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	686.10	722.30	+3.20	...
Equity Fund	918.10	966.50	-4.30	...
Property Fund	325.00	342.20	-0.10	...
International Fd	639.90	673.70	+8.60	...
Fixed Interest Fd	504.80	531.50	+2.10	...
Indexed Stock Fd	263.70	277.70	+0.60	...
Cash Fund	267.20	281.30	+0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	596.10	627.40	+16.00	...
Equity Acc	827.80	871.30	-4.90	...
International Acc	436.80	459.70	-4.60	...
Property	277.40	292.00	-0.30	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	312.60	329.10	+0.30	...
Equity	1808.10	1903.30	-2.90	...
European	290.20	305.50	+4.80	...
Far East	129.30	136.20	-2.40	...
Fixed Interest	534.40	562.60	+2.30	...
Index Linked	281.30	296.20	+0.60	...
International	787.40	828.90	+4.60	...
Managed	1086.00	1143.20	+2.10	...
Nth American	259.30	273.00	-1.90	...
Property	451.90	475.70	+0.80	...
Pensions				
Cash	510.50	537.40	+0.70	...
Equity	2907.00	3060.10	-8.50	...
European	399.50	420.60	+9.40	...
Far East	95.40	100.50	-1.80	...
Fixed Interest	795.00	836.90	+3.90	...
Index Linked	413.00	435.40	+0.50	...
International	1171.10	1232.80	+13.50	...
Managed	1658.10	1745.40	+3.90	...
Nth American	370.30	389.80	+2.70	...
Property	705.50	742.70	+1.30	...
Stock Exchange	370.10	389.60	+1.50	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1116.50	1175.30	+6.60	...
Equity Fund	1607.80	1692.40	-6.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	549.80	578.70	+1.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	437.70	460.70	+2.40	...
Property Fund	610.40	642.50	+0.70	...
International Fd	1027.20	1081.30	+23.50	...
N American Fd	555.40	584.60	+12.00	...
Far East Fund	180.00	189.50	+0.50	...
Deposit Fund	350.70	369.20	+0.50	...
Intnl Bd ‡	£142.70	...	+650.00	...
Worldwide Bond	175.80	185.00	-1.60	...
European	372.30	391.90	+13.20	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1134.70	1194.50	+6.80	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	799.90	820.20	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	720.10	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	662.90	...	+0.70	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	968.90	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc ‡	919.60	...	+0.90	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	529.60	...	+0.70	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	553.00	...	+0.70	...
Investment Fd ‡	602.50	...	+3.40	...
Investment (A) ‡	575.10	...	+3.20	...
Equity ‡	2381.00	...	-8.50	...
Equity Acc ‡	2260.20	...	-8.20	...
Money Fund ‡	568.80	...	+0.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	539.20	...	-0.60	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	993.40	...	+5.70	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	518.70	...	+1.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	518.70	...	+1.20	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1537.90	...	+1.40	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	265.40	...	+0.30	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	2498.40	...	+33.10	...
Managed Acc ‡	1326.00	...	+17.10	...
Equity Account ‡	2130.40	...	+24.30	...
Mngd Fund Acc	598.80	630.40	+8.10	...
Equity Fund Acc	912.70	960.70	-10.80	...
Prop Fund Acc	348.10	366.40	+3.70	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	429.00	451.60	+1.10	...
Money Fund Acc	256.00	269.50	+0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Scr Ac	266.30	280.30	+1.70	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	3106.40	...	+58.70	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1443.30	1519.30	+28.70	...
Pens Guarantee	337.90	355.70	-0.50	...
Pens Equity	616.30	648.70	+8.70	...
Pens Property	406.90	428.30	+4.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	434.70	457.60	+3.10	...
Pens Intl	352.80	371.40	-13.90	...
Pens Money	287.30	302.40	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	270.60	284.90	+4.00	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1332.40	1402.60	+8.60	...
Property Acc	494.00	520.00	-0.10	...
Equity Acc	2477.30	2607.70	-0.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	545.70	574.50	-0.20	...
Cash Acc	362.50	381.60	-0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	733.40	772.00	+16.90	...
Japan Acc	185.60	195.40	+0.80	...
Pacific Acc	248.90	262.00	+0.40	...
Far Eastern Acc	550.80	579.80	-1.30	...
International Acc	768.10	808.60	+14.10	...
Distribution Fund	370.20	389.70	-2.10	5.00
European	360.30	379.30	-9.80	...
Defrd Dis	262.80	276.80	+1.30	...
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Intl Growth	102.50	102.50	+2.20	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	1052.70	1108.10	-0.80	...
Money Fund	370.30	389.70	-0.40	...
Equity Fund	1036.30	1090.70	-5.70	...
Fixed Interest	372.70	392.30	+3.50	...
Property Fund	473.90	498.80	-7.20	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	917.70	966.00	+13.90	...
Income	1196.50	1259.40	-6.60	...
International Gth	860.10	905.30	+8.70	...
Capital Fund	899.30	946.60	-5.00	...
Recovery Fund	614.70	647.00	-0.40	...
Japan & General	174.60	183.70	-2.20	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	21.09	22.19	+0.02	...
Bear	30.29	31.88	-0.07	...
Owl	33.41	35.16	-0.14	...
Bull	26.86	28.27	-0.02	...
Stag	25.81	27.16	+0.01	...
Gilt Edged	24.54	25.83	-0.23	...
Deposit	18.13	19.08	-0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	30.07	31.65	+0.04	...
Bear	45.97	48.38	-0.12	...
Owl	49.85	52.47	-0.27	...
Bull	37.93	39.92	-0.02	...
Stag	36.63	38.55	+0.07	...
Gilt Edged	33.47	35.23	+0.39	...
Deposit	24.60	25.89	-0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund ‡		893.59	-0.58	...
1992 Series				
UK Equity	575.38	605.66	-3.19	...
N Amer Equity	490.07	515.86	+7.43	...
Far East Equity	246.87	259.86	-5.88	...
Fixed	393.86	414.37	-3.73	...
Cash Deposit	239.04	251.62	-0.27	...
Property	201.04	212.56	+3.00	...
Special Opp	501.66	528.08	-0.31	...
Managed	468.34	492.98	-0.35	...
Index-Linked Fd	244.58	257.45	-2.45	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	874.00	920.00	-0.70	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	492.10	518.00	+4.70	...
Life Equity Acc	1367.20	1439.10	-7.60	...
Life Money Acc	348.00	366.30	-0.40	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1150.70	1211.20	-0.90	...
Life Intl Acc	608.20	640.20	-6.10	...
Life High Inc Acc	1373.20	1445.40	-18.00	...
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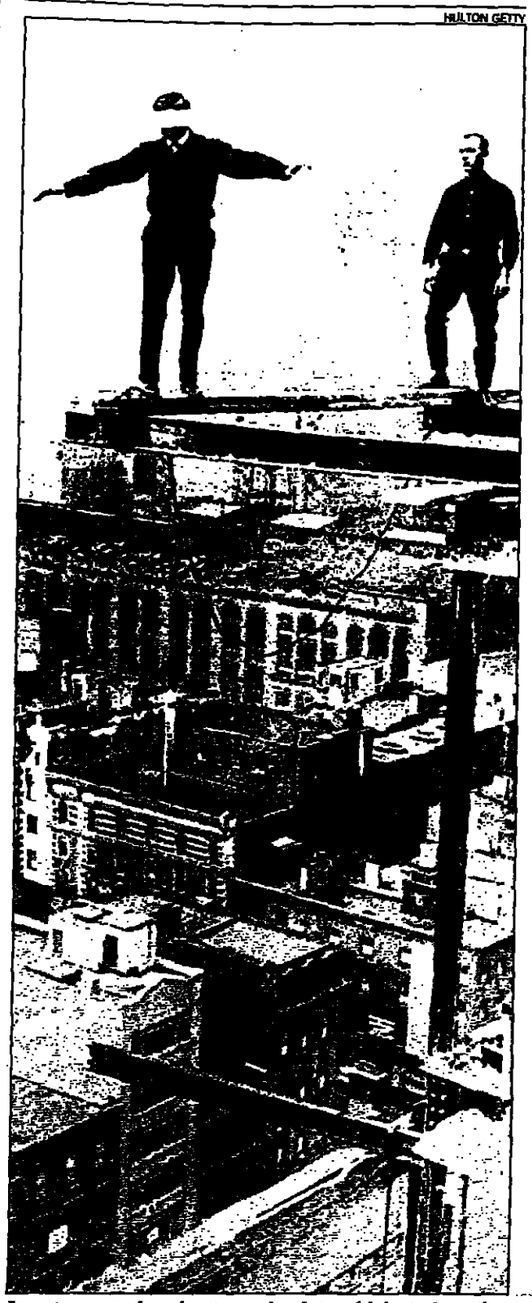
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High time to be backing Britain

HIT OR MISS

Patrick Collinson assesses the prospects for a new unit trust from HSBC dedicated to UK shares

HULTON GETTY



Investors are edgy about stepping into a high stock market

The recent string of bad news on the UK economy — rising inflation, unemployment and falling manufacturing output — has made investors nervous about committing money to an already high stock market. Yet investment advisers have given an enthusiastic welcome to a new fund that ploughs 100 per cent of its money into UK shares.

The fund, launched this weekend, is the HSBC Income & Growth unit trust. It is run by Tim Russell, whom HSBC Asset Management recently poached from Lazards, where he built up a strong reputation for managing UK equities.

Mr Russell admits that investors will be buying into a fund when the stock market is high — but he believes there are still opportunities to make money. He said: "We are not launching saying that UK equities are particularly cheap right now, but many of the things that have driven the market since 1994 are still in place.

"The UK economy is in fundamentally sound shape, with inflation subdued and interest rates at historically low levels for this point in the cycle. There is a long-term increase in savings, institutions still have a lot of liquidity, cashflow is strong and the bond market remains reasonably supportive. But profits growth is slowing and stock selection will be increasingly important."

The new fund will invest in the whole spread of shares quoted on the stock market rather than focusing on the FTSE 100 stocks which have performed so strongly in recent years. Income from the fund is low, at about 2.5 per cent, reflecting how a variety of factors — such as the tax treatment of dividends plus rising stock prices — have combined to reduce the average yield paid by the stock market. Mr Russell has also decided against investing in fixed interest instruments such as gilts to improve the fund's income.

Weekend Money asked three investment advisers to rate the fund: Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere Investments, Mark Dampier of Churchill Investments and Mark Robinson of Berry Asset Management. All rated it either as good or very good.

Mr Hooper said: "HSBC has an excellent reputation both in terms of quality fund management and performance track records, and Tim Russell has an excellent track record of managing UK equity funds." Mr Robinson added: "We supported Tim at Lazards. He is a safe pair of hands, he's not an aggressive manager and he is a good guy to have managing your nest egg."

But should investors even be considering putting money into the stock market at its current levels?

Mr Dampier said: "We have had two and a half years of people telling us that the market is about to crash. I am not overly bearish. I think interest rates will fall next year, making me fairly relaxed about the levels of the market at the moment."

What about choosing the UK rather than other markets such as North America, Europe or Japan? Mr Robinson said: "The UK is still looking pretty OK, although not as good as last year. If you are looking at a lower risk place to put your cash, the UK is one of the best environments."

Focusing on the broad range of UK stocks rather than the top 100 also wins support. Mr Hooper said: "Essentially this is a sound strategy. It does risk underperformance against the index should large caps surge ahead. Having said this, given the current economic climate and relatively recent outperformance of blue chips, medium and smaller caps appear to be coming into favour."

However, Mr Dampier added that many smaller and medium-sized companies, which are disproportionately manufacturing companies, continue to feel the pain of the high level of sterling against other currencies, and are exposed to any further rises in interest rates.

Mr Dampier said: "Six months ago I would have said it was bang-on to have a strategy based around mid-sized companies. But the mid-250 index has suffered because of interest rate rises and blue chips have been rising again. It all depends on what the Bank of England does next. It could be a tough summer for small and mid-sized companies."

For a first-time investor, Chase de Vere says it may be better to pick an FTSE 100 fund rather than a broadly based trust. Mr Hooper said: "For novice investors, taking the plunge into Peps and unit trusts, this may not be the most suitable of funds, as the medium/smaller cap content may increase volatility a little when compared to the larger cap funds."

While the investment advisers are broadly supportive of the fund's strategy, the product specification is unsparkling. Mr Hooper said: "The initial and annual management charges for the unit trust are average, and HSBC does not reduce the initial charge when the investment is brought within a Pep, whereas some competitors such as Perpetual cut the initial charge to 3.25 per cent from 5.25 per cent when a trust is held in a Pep."

Mr Robinson added: "The annual charge is 1.5 per cent, when we would prefer it to be 1.25 per cent, but it is broadly in line with other managers."

One final point for investors is the financial strength of the management group. HSBC is one of the biggest banks in the world, but a large part of its operations are in Hong Kong, and some investors may be concerned about the Asian financial crisis that is destabilising banks in the region. But as with all unit trusts, money is under the control of trustees, not the bank, and HSBC has one of the strongest capital ratios in the world.

Scores:

Chase de Vere Inv: ★★★★
BAM: ★★★★
Churchill Inv: ★★★

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(2) Offer to bid with gross income reinvested, from 01/07/93 - 01/07/98: £3,000 invested in the UK Equity Fund became £6,345 (347/115), £2,000 invested in the UK Enterprise Fund became £4,330 (307/34), and £1,000 invested in the UK Smaller Companies Fund became £2,398 (65/6)
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Clare Stewart says buying limited-edition prints is next best to the real thing

Affordable original art



A limited edition print of Clare Woods's *Kiss* will cost £190

Having the walls of your house hung with original paintings may be an attractive idea, but one that is unrealistic for most people.

Buying an original print is, however, a much more affordable route into owning a work by a particular artist, including very well-known names. Prints can be bought at auction or through dealers, and more recently the market has opened up with the increase in the number of specialist art fairs, shops and galleries devoted to selling prints.

Last year, for example, the Habitat chain of shops launched 12 limited-edition prints commissioned from contemporary artists such as Gary Hume and Anya Gallaccio, and sold them at its branches throughout the UK. A further set of six is to be launched in the autumn. The prints, which are limited to a run of around 100, cost between £180 and £220.

Modern original prints typically come in the form of etchings, where the original design has been etched on to a metal plate; a silkscreen where layers of colour are applied; or a lithograph, where the engraving is made on a stone plate. There are many other processes used. Older prints, for example, may be taken from a woodcut while contemporary works may combine a number of processes such as silkscreening and etching.

A limited edition could run from only a few to 1,000 impressions, after which the plate with the original engraving is destroyed. The size of the edition will affect the print's value and the signature and numbering of a print is also important.

Richard Lloyd, a print specialist at Phillips, the auctioneers, says that for centuries prints were produced without being signed, while today a signature can make a significant difference to value. "A lithograph by David Hockney without his signature might be worth £200 to £300 but the same print from a signed and numbered edition would probably fetch between £2,000 and £3,000," he says.

The best-known names among established artists will fetch the highest prices at auction, says Pippa Toolan, who is in the visual arts department of Bonhams, the auctioneers.

By comparison prints by contemporary artists may be bought for less, that is to say for a few hundred pounds upwards, even including well-known artists such as Anish Kapoor and Richard Long, if their work has not yet been sold by auction houses.

Prices, says Ms Toolan, will be affected by the condition of the prints, so any damage to the paper or discolouration could affect the value. It is important therefore that you do not risk damaging any newly acquired print when framing it. Acid-free mounts are recommended and prints should also be kept out of direct sunlight to avoid fading.

Bonhams has a sale on Tuesday with a selection of prints by 20th-century artists. These include two by Elizabeth Frink, with an estimate of £900-£1,200 for one and £500-£700 for the other. Estimates for John Piper prints range between £200 and £600.

Christie's South Kensington has also a selection of prints in its sale on Wednesday. An etching by Pierre Bonnard, *Le Parc Monceau* (1937), is estimated to fetch between £300 and £500, while a lithograph in colours called *Sculptural Objects* by Henry Moore is expected to fetch £200. Among works by David Hockney is *Pleading for the Child*, with an estimate between £300 and £500.

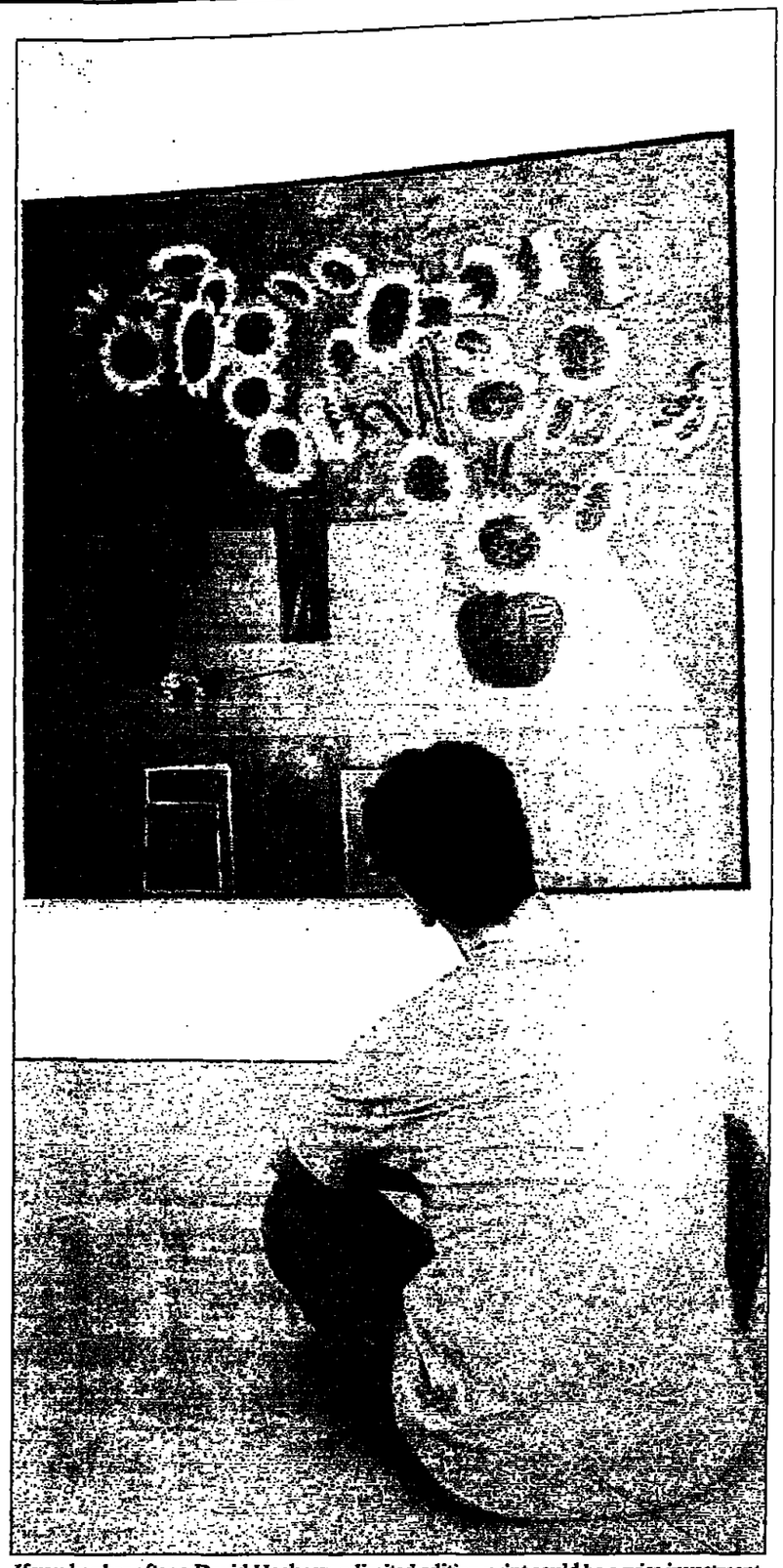
Hockneys are good buys at present, as well as works by Beryl Cook. Scottish artists such as Robert MacBryde and Robert Colquhoun are being recognised too, says Abigail Holmes, a prints specialist at Christie's. "There has been a considerable growth in interest in prints from a wide variety of buyers, but there are many people who still don't know you can buy a Picasso for £200."

Commercial galleries often have a selection of prints by their regular exhibiting artists. For example, the Francis Kyle Gallery in London has prints by Paul Hogarth from around £200 and by Adrian George from £325.

Prices at CCA Galleries, a limited edition specialist with two shops and a mail order service, start from around £45 for works from a number of contemporary artists.

Mr Lloyd, at Phillips, advises doing plenty of research on the state of the market before buying the better-known artists. "Because prints are published in editions," he says, "it is often easy to find a recent auction price for a precise image, something which cannot be done for oils and watercolours."

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If you hanker after a David Hockney, a limited edition print could be a wise investment

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Some former members are no doubt happy to remain shareholders, even though as an investment it makes little sense. But now Alan Diamond, a consultant stockbroker and one of the remaining 3,900 "A" shareholders, believes the Exchange should redeem the shares early given its vastly improved finances. It would cost about £36 million to redeem them all.

Mr Diamond claims to know several former members who have fallen on hard times, some dependent on the Stock Exchange's benevolent fund. "I came across one former member who is literally selling newspapers."

He estimates that the £10,000 "A" shares are today worth just £5,300 in terms of 1986 buying power.

The Stock Exchange says it is willing to consider any proposal for early redemption of the shares, although it would require the majority support of other "A" shareholders.

In any event, the situation may resolve itself in the light of this week's pact with Deutsche Börse, the Frankfurt stock exchange. Closer co-operation could involve changes in the ownership structure — and the redemption of any historical obligations might well be necessary.

RICHARD MILES

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Nationwide gets the jitters

Caroline Merrell reports on how carpetbaggers can still snatch victory in crucial conversion vote

The Nationwide this week called on members to cast their votes in its conversion poll, as it emerged that the outcome could be very close. Nationwide directors fear that they could lose the vote by a very slim margin and want supporters of mutuality to rally to the cause.

A secret survey conducted by the society indicates that speculators are gaining an advantage, with just ten days to go before all votes must be received, on July 21. The result will be announced at the society's annual meeting on July 23.

The Nationwide believes that its membership list now contains some 600,000 carpetbaggers: savers and borrowers who switched to the society in anticipation of gaining a windfall. This faction, together with 300,000 who voted in favour of pro-conversion candidates in last year's poll, could swing the vote against the board. The Nationwide has 4.9 million members, of whom two million are expected to vote to decide whether the Nationwide will follow the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich to the stock market.

This is twice the number of people who voted in the Welsh referendum.

The voting papers ask members to consider the appointments of two pro-conversion candidates to the board. The proposals also include a straightforward question on whether the society should convert to a bank. The candidates include the controversial Michael Hardern, the former butler, and Andrew Muir, a recruitment consultant.

Mr Hardern and four other pro-conversion candidates stood for election last year. They were defeated by three votes to one. The eccentric behaviour of Mr Hardern is thought to have contributed to the overwhelming endorsement of the board's preference to remain a mutual organisation.

Mr Hardern's erratic behaviour included wearing a sarong, as well as recanting on his original proposals for flotation. This year his bizarre behaviour continued with a press conference outside Parliament, where Mr Hardern donned full House of Lords regalia.

The future of the Nationwide has implications for the whole building society movement because if the Nationwide is forced to demutualise, some of the other remaining building societies may well consider a takeover themselves or demutualisation.

The Government earlier this year rejected attempts by those in favour of mutuality to change the law to protect societies from the onslaught of carpetbaggers.

The Nationwide fears that even if it wins the vote again this year, it will be subjected to another attack next year. The society has to spend around £2 million each time it defends itself in a poll.

If it loses, it will call an early board meeting to decide what to do. The board is believed to favour a sale to a predator rather than to go for a straightforward conversion. Any windfall for customers is expected to be in the region of £2,000.

Lloyds TSB has been suggested as one possible buyer. But if the board wins by a narrow margin, the Nationwide could still be the subject of a hostile bid from a determined company.

Last week the Nationwide raised doubts about the ability of the two board candidates to take the society through any possible conversion process, after Mr Hardern stepped up his campaign by promising members a seat in the House of Lords if he is elected to the board. He said also that a "Nationwide plc" would offer added value by acting as a buying organisation for its customers and offering best prices on gas, electricity and telephone bills.

A Nationwide spokesman said: "It is an interesting approach to the conversion issue. Mr Hardern has a right to express how he feels."

Mr Muir, the other pro-conversion candidate, said he felt confident members would vote for conversion. He mounted his challenge last October, and this week said he was positive that he would be elected with 70 per cent in favour.

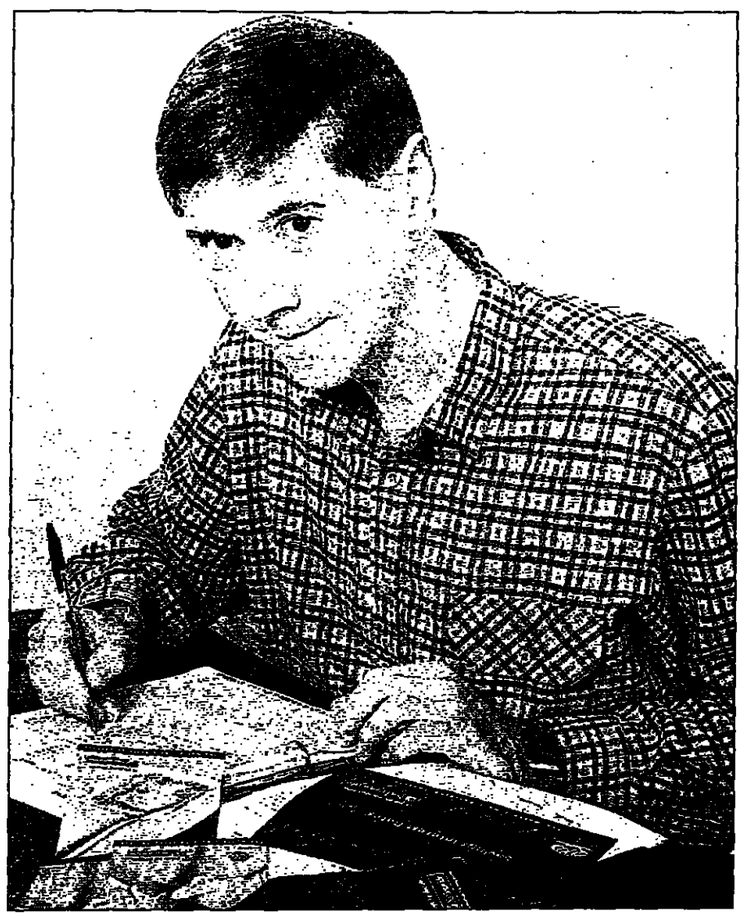
Mr Muir, who owns a financial recruitment consultancy in Slough, said he was standing for election because he believes the board is out of touch with members.

Like many members, Mr Muir is unhappy about the way the voting forms are set out, but he said he would not be mounting a legal challenge if the vote goes against him.

Instead, he says that he has 100 supporters monitoring the advice being given to customers by staff at its branches and that if he discovers too many cashiers are giving biased advice he may consider demanding a new vote.

If the Nationwide wins, its borrowers and savers will continue to earn preferential rates of interest. An average borrower with a variable-rate mortgage is £700 a year better off than a customer at the Halifax. The society has also waived many of the fees attached to a mortgage.

The society now lends more than the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and the Abbey National put together, and its savings rates are better than many of its rivals'.



Fan of old-fashioned value

Clive Shenton concedes that his view may be old-fashioned but he remains enthusiastic about mutuality. Mr Shenton, a retired social worker, and his wife Val, who is an art editor, joined the Nationwide about 15 years ago after experiencing what they considered to be excessive charges on their accounts at clearing banks.

They have been more than happy with the service they have received and Mr Shenton feels strongly that if the Nationwide converts there would be a decline in the quality of service and charges would be imposed on services which are currently provided free.

If the Nationwide were to convert, Mr Shenton, pictured, suspects that the few remaining building societies would be forced to do the same, which would reduce the competition. The high street banks are currently keeping up with the rates offered by the mutuals.

He resents the intrusion of carpetbaggers, whom he sees as seeking short-term personal gain at the expense of long-term quality of service. Mr Shenton also believes it is unfair that only the first-named on a joint account is eligible to vote, thus preventing his wife from joining him in supporting the society.

JACQUI SPRAY

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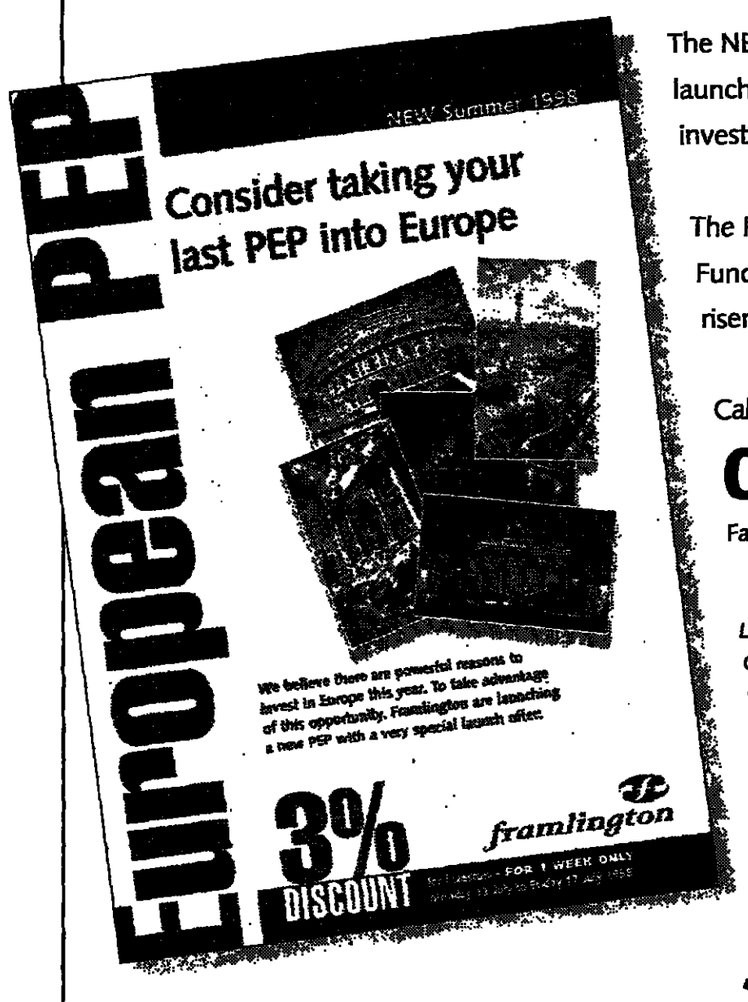
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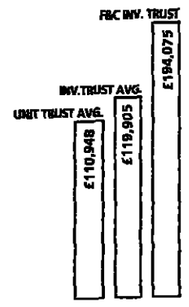
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People clamour for the rewards of buying to let



Catmark isolates Isas

Caroline Merrell and Gavin Lumsden on the angry reaction to benchmarks



Ready to pounce: Richard Branson's Virgin Direct offers the type of index-tracking funds that will receive the Catmark

The Government's plan to introduce a set of standards for the individual savings account (Isa) has provoked protests from companies that are to offer the new scheme. It is possible that no life insurance company will be able to offer an Isa with the benchmark.

Andrew Black, marketing manager of Standard Life, said this week that he was dubious about any major insurer being able to offer schemes complying to the standard. Perpetual, a leading fund manager, also believes that it will not be able to offer an Isa to meet the guidelines.

The standard, the so-called Catmark, will not be able to be applied to Isas based on funds that are actively managed — only index-tracking funds will get the mark, such as those marketed by Virgin Direct, Richard Branson's financial services company.

The present proposal for the Catmark also only allows an annual management charge of 1 per cent a year.

Because the proposals appear to give such a boost to Virgin, the trade magazine *Investment Week* suggested that Mr Branson had hired a team of lobbyists to influence government thinking. This has been strenuously denied by Virgin, which is considering taking legal action against the magazine for branding Mr Branson public enemy number one.

The organisation that represents the fund management industry, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), has become involved in the fracas as Philip Warland, the head of the organisation, and Rowan Gormley, head of Virgin Direct, have exchanged heated letters on the issue.

Mr Gormley claims that the fund management industry's attempts to widen the Catmark to include actively managed funds that carry higher charges is pure self-interest.

"Over the last four years alone, Pep investors have been overcharged by £3.2 billion," he said.

Virgin Direct wants Autif to carry out independent market research to find out what the public really thinks of Catmarks because Virgin's own research shows that more than half the population would be encouraged to invest in an Isa if it carried a Catmark. Many of those who do not save at present say they have been put off by a series of mis-selling scandals.

The unseemly dispute threatens to cloud the Government's attempts to make Isas cheap and easy to understand. Some fund managers believe that cutting the costs down to 1 per cent will mean that no advice can be given on the product because fund managers would not be able to afford to pay commission to independent financial advisers (IFAs) who sell their wares.

While low-cost funds are good news for investors, the fear is that people could put money into unsuitable investments if they buy the funds without taking advice.

Roger Cornick, a director of Perpetual, said that if the proposals to give the standard to index-tracking funds only was not changed, it would be unable to offer a Catmarked Isa. "Catmarking could potentially mislead inexperienced investors," he said.

Gartmore is equally critical of the Catmark plan. A spokesman said: "We believe it is dangerous and irresponsible to consign all investment advice into the financial dustbin. Gartmore welcomes much of what the Government is setting out to do, to encourage more low-cost, accessible and simple savings products."

However, in the future, buying without advice may be the only option for the vast majority. An unprecedented warning by the Government this week has put the continued existence of independent financial advisers in doubt.

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, threatened to restructure the entire financial services industry if IFAs fail to speed up their compensation of victims of the £11 billion pension mis-selling scandal.

IFAs are thought to have mis-sold personal pensions to about a quarter of the 2.1 million victims identified by City watchdogs so far. Of these, some 96,000 are classified as urgent cases which IFAs have been told to resolve by the end of the year. However, so far their performance in the pensions review has been woeful: many IFAs have not started looking at their cases, while the best firms have completed less than half.

In her strongest attack yet Mrs Liddell said: "People should think long and hard about using an IFA." Anyone who is thinking of taking financial advice, she said, should check how the IFA has done in the pensions review and whether it has ever been fined by a regulator.

Considering that hundreds of IFAs have already been, or are about to be, fined by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), this rules out swaths of the industry.

Barclays attacked over b² as L&G fund is shelved

Barclays has run into more flak over its new b² account after a rival fund manager announced that it was shelving a similar investment. Legal & General has decided to close its Guaranteed Stockmarket Investment Plan, a fund which, like the b² "Advanced Savings Account", offers to return investors' money even if the stock market crashes.

Protected funds like these are increasingly popular with investors seeking to shelter their savings as the UK stock market teeters at an all-time high. However, they rely on complex financial instruments, known as options, to buy this protection. In the past year the price of these options has rocketed as a result of uncertainty over the stock market and interest rates.

L&G said it would have had to more than double its initial investment charge to 10 per cent to continue providing its five-year money-back guarantee. It has closed the fund to new investors but maintains other option-protected schemes which offer a predetermined return.

Barclays has admitted that the b² account, which takes a massive 14 per cent of investors' money to buy options, would have needed a much smaller slice had it launched a year ago. The timing means that investors are paying more for the protection and will probably get disappointing returns.

Barclays defended b², saying it was better than L&G's fund and was aimed at tempting younger savers away from the building society. It refused to comment on reports that it has raised only £2 million despite using a £15 million TV advertising campaign.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Students bank on a good deal

MARTIN BEDDALL



Zoe Mayne relies on student loans and a £750 interest-free overdraft

Exam results are still a nervy month away. But aspiring undergraduates can fill the anxious days by studying student banking packages to help them to choose the right account if they get the necessary A-level grades. Because the first-year students of the 1998-99 academic year will face tuition fees of £1,000 a year, overdraft limits will be of prime concern.

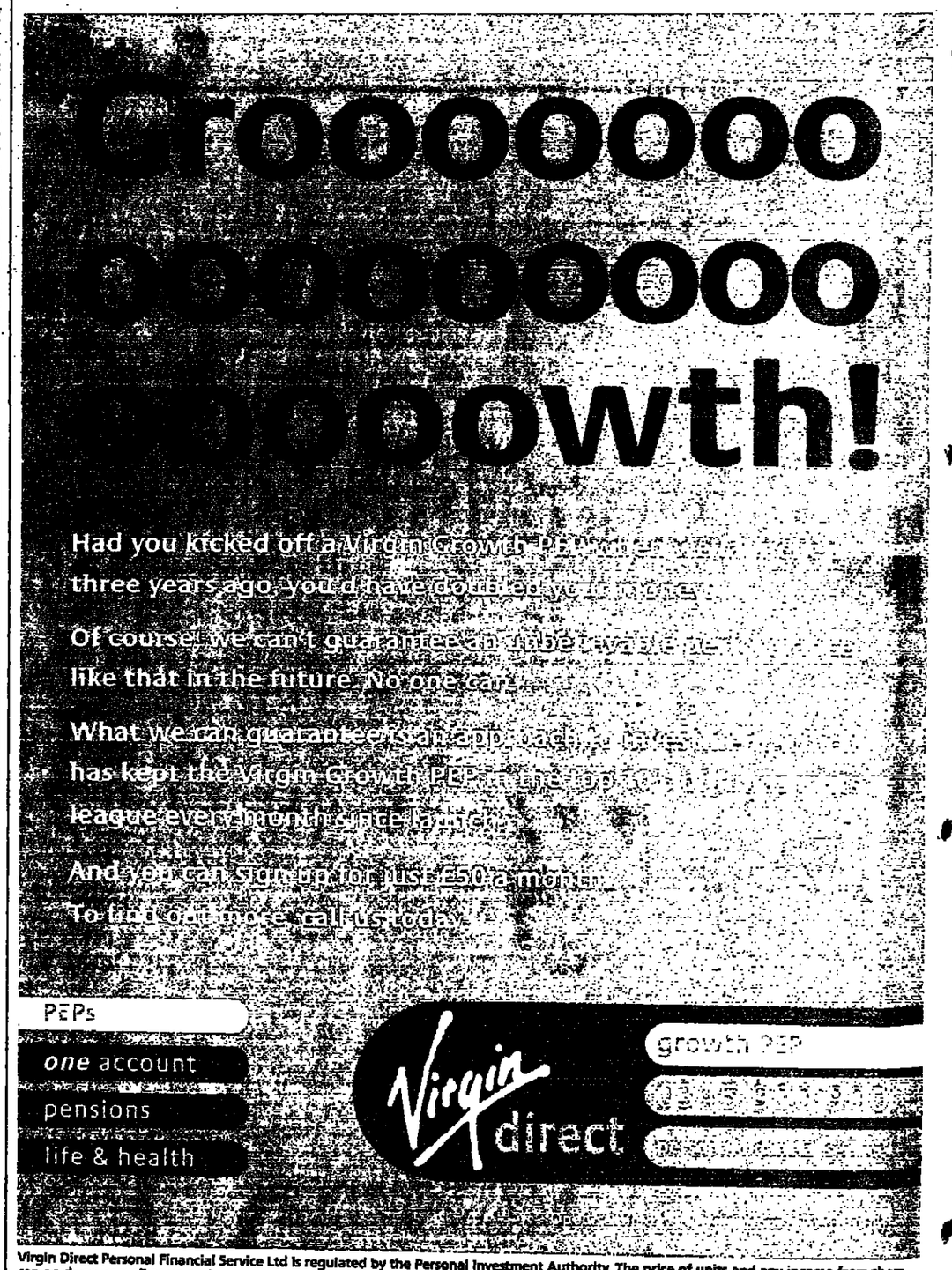
Students tend to exhibit as much knowledge of borrowing facilities and interest rates as merchant bankers these days. Zoe Mayne, a theology and philosophy student at St John's, Oxford, is a Midland customer and has access to a £750 interest-free overdraft and has taken out a student loan each year.

However, she is always mindful that the debts have to be cleared: "I haven't really felt it yet, but I know the money will have to be paid back somehow." She expects that managing her finances will grow no easier as she progresses through her university career. Midland unveils its student package next week.

Lloyds launched its account this week and is targeting the undergraduate drawn to simplicity in banking arrangements. Lloyds is proud to be "gimmick-free". It offers a restrained cash gift of £35 (£40 if you or your parents are already customers), plus a guaranteed interest-free overdraft of £750, which rises to £1,000 in the third year and to £2,000 in the fourth and fifth.

Barclays is giving away a free mobile phone. However, although there is no connection or monthly fee a minimum of £20 worth of calls must be credited to the phone every 120 days, paid for on your Student Barclaycard. Barclays overdrafts range from £1,200 in year one to £1,800 in year five.

ANNE ASHWORTH



Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. You can invest in a general PEP right up until 5 April 1999 when they will attract the same tax benefits as the new Individual Savings Account. All calls are recorded and monitored. *Source: Micropal, single investment, 6.3.95 to 31.5.98, gross income reinvested.**Source: Micropal. Figures calculated from 6.3.95 to the end of each month up until 30.4.98 for all funds in the UK growth and income sector during the whole of this period, buying to selling unit prices, gross income reinvested.

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THE TIMES

WEEKEND

SATURDAY JULY 11 1998

Viagra All about Viagra



One small blue pill is turning back the clock for millions of men. Is it the beginning of a new sexual revolution? Will it bankrupt the NHS? Is it too good to be true?

Banishing age and promising pleasure, a little blue pill has become the medicine of the moment. A generation raised in the belief that sexual enjoyment is a universal right omitted from the UN Declaration only by a careless oversight is reluctant to let age stand in its way. Enter Viagra, a drug that can peel back the years and make pensioners perform like the young lovers they once were.

Many drugs save life, but Viagra's purpose is different: it aims to save the *quality* of life. It joins Prozac for depression, Propecia for baldness, and Retin-A for removing wrinkles. Soon there will be pills to make us thin. "Quality of life" pharmacology is the way of the future.

So far, Viagra is just a clamorous rumour for most Europeans. Approval is not expected until September, by which time impotent men, driven mad by reports from America, will be beating down their doctors' doors. Meanwhile, worried production managers at Pfizer will be wondering if their manufacturing plants can keep up with a demand that has proved near-insatiable.

"Pfizer's Riser", as Viagra has inevitably been nicknamed, has become the fastest-selling drug of all time since it was licensed in the United States in March, with around two million prescriptions issued so far. It costs £120 for a box of 30 pills, but illicit supplies sell for more on the black market in countries where it has yet to be licensed. In Japan, pills can cost 50,000 yen (£220) each.

So instant has Viagra's brand recognition become that it has already spawned its own jokes. The next Pfizer drug, according to one of these, is to be called Projectra, which makes men significantly more likely to complete a do-it-yourself project before starting a new one.

Viagra has even, astonishingly, generated a counter-movement protesting that impotence is being given a bad name. Terry and Hilary Phillips, a Welsh couple in their fifties, run an Internet web site called *Impotence: Myths and Facts*. It is time, the site declares, for more men to liberate themselves and say "I'm impotent — and it's OK!".

Impotent men, asserts Mr Phillips, make great lovers, and only worry about their impotence because they have been conditioned by advertising. Last week he declined to elaborate on his views, claiming that they had already been misrepresented in the press by journalists who had "consistently missed the point".

For most men, it seems safe to assume, it is a point all-too-easily missed. Impotence brings great misery to millions, and existing treatments are either uncomfortable, embarrassing, or both. You have to be fairly desperate to inject your penis with a drug before sex, or to try to inflate it inside a kind of suction device. Viagra is a much more user-friendly solution to a condition as old as man himself, the inability to achieve or sustain an erection. Often blamed on psychological causes by doctors, there are plenty of physical reasons why men lose their potency. Some, but not all, can be addressed by Viagra.

At the heart of the mystery lies a gas called nitric oxide, or NO, a nice irony since the function of Viagra is to enable men to say yes. For years NO was just one of the polluting gases produced in car exhausts, but then — to general astonishment — it was found to serve as a chemical signal in many different parts of the body. Sexual stimulation causes NO to be released in the penis, where it triggers increased production of guanosine monophosphate, which relaxes the smooth muscles in the corpus cavernosum, the "cavernous bodies" that fill with blood as sexual excitement mounts. The effect is erection.

What goes up must come down, so there is also a mechanism for removing the guanosine monophosphate and allowing the penis to relax. This is an enzyme, phosphodiesterase type 5, or PDE5. Viagra works by inhibiting PDE5 in a highly selective way, sustaining levels of guanosine monophosphate, and so sustaining the erection.

The effect was discovered fortuitously. Angina has long been treated with nitroglycerin pills — though, perhaps to reassure patients being treated with a high explosive, it is usually given its alternative name, glyceryl trinitrate. The reason why this worked was not understood until the role of NO emerged. It seems that nitrates stimulate the production of NO, relaxing the heart's blood vessels.

Viagra, then plain UK-92480, was originally put on trial as an angina drug by Dr Ian Osterloh and his team at Pfizer's research centre in Sandwich, Kent. It proved a disappointment. Patients with angina got no relief but they proved strangely reluctant to hand back their pills. The reason became plain. It was not inhibiting PDE3, the phosphodiesterase in the coronary arteries, but PDE5, the version in the penis. This was the eureka moment.

Studies showed that it is 4,000 times more effective against PDE5 than PDE3, the kind of selectivity drug designers love because it minimises side effects. Its effect on PDE6, the version found in the retina, is thought to be why disturbances of vision are one of Viagra's side effects.

Those who have taken it offer testimonials that tend towards the ecstatic. "You must take it," ordered a Brazilian newspaper columnist and grandfather, Paulo Sant' Ana, boasting of his Viagra-fuelled prowess in bed. "It doesn't matter how expensive it is. There is no price on happiness. Viagra is the elixir of youth and happiness."

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L'ANVIN L'HOMME

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So popular has the drug become that regulatory agencies could face a nasty dilemma. Drug trials can reveal obvious side effects, but the numbers are not big enough to show every problem. Only when a drug is in use by millions do some become plain.

If they are serious enough, the drug is withdrawn. But withdrawing Viagra would be about as popular as Prohibition was in 1920s America, and about as effective. Impotent men have had a glimpse of the promised land, and they are going to give it up only for the most extreme of risks.

By the middle of June, the US Food and Drug Administration had received about 100 reports of serious effects, including 30 deaths. Most were in elderly men with other health problems and, given the number taking Viagra, are probably not significant.

It is plain, however, that Viagra should not be taken with heart drugs that include nitrates, a warning that Pfizer prints on the label. Other heart medications may be suspect, too, according to Dr Raymond Woosley of Georgetown University, Washington DC. At least 14 of those who suffered serious side effects, including four who died, were on blood pressure drugs.

The risks are greater when Viagra is acquired by backdoor routes. IDIS World Medicines, an importer of specialist medicines, warns that bypassing normal safeguards could have serious consequences. "If such legislation is ignored, then this could be to the detriment of the patient," says Amanda Gould, marketing director of IDIS.

Such safeguards are the last stage in the long development of a drug. Viagra has no single inventor and its name is a meaningless word. Pfizer says that many people were involved with its development: Viagra was originally produced with hundreds of others with only a vague idea of what they might do. Screening suggested the chemical, sildenafil citrate, might have possibilities, and trials followed.

But nobody, says the company, ever set out specifically to create an impotence drug. No such drug existed, except in the imagination, and no tests existed to show that such a drug would work. Pfizer had to develop these itself, together with the questionnaire-style approach accepted by the FDA as a valid proof that the drug does what it purports to do.

The worldwide trials used to gain the licence tested the drugs on 3,700 men between the ages of 19 and 87. When taken as recommended, 16 per cent suffered headaches, 10 per cent reported flushes, 7 per cent dyspepsia, 4 per cent nasal congestion and 3 per cent abnormal vision. In higher doses, abnormal vision became far more common, affecting 11 per cent.

The upside, as we must inevitably call it, was altogether more bracing. Around 70 per cent reported improved erections when on Viagra, compared with 24 per cent on dummy pills. Daily diaries kept by patients with erectile dysfunction showed no change in the number of times intercourse was attempted (about two per week) but success rates were 1.3 on Viagra versus 0.4 on placebo — a two in three success rate, as opposed to one in five. Viagra was also effective where impotence is the result of disease, including heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, prostate conditions and spinal cord injury.

The success has raised the intriguing question of whether Viagra might also be effective in women. But is there really anything in common between frigidity and impotence? Are women's sexual difficulties also a matter of NO?

Some US specialists believe so and have prescribed Viagra to women, in the belief that improving blood flow to the clitoris may improve sexual response. Dr Susan Vaughan's *Viagra*, the first book on the drug, is optimistic. Dr Vaughan, a psychologist and psychoanalyst practising in Manhattan, reports the response of a patient she calls Lisa. "It felt like my clitoris would burst," said Lisa, who went on to say other things probably not suitable for a family newspaper.

Another woman said that she felt like she could come for hours. But these are anecdotes. Pfizer will need more scientific data if it is to get Viagra licensed for women. It has organised a trial in 500 postmenopausal women who have trouble with lubrication during sex.

Choosing this group avoids the difficult issue of what effects the drug has on fertility, pregnancy and the babies of women taking it, questions that will need an answer if a licence is sought.

One American urologist, Jennifer Berman of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, has given ten younger women Viagra in a trial. She says that all have had excellent results, some reaching orgasm for the first time. All have had hysterectomies, so there is no danger of pregnancy. One woman was so uninterested in sex that her husband suspected her of having an affair. Viagra allegedly reinvigorated the couple's sex life.

But what of those, like the Phillips, who have settled into an intimate life that does not include penetrative sex? It seems certain that Viagra will upset many such relationships: not every 60-year-old woman wants an active sex life. "It may bring about some problems, maybe some separations, certainly some arguments," says Professor John Mulcahy, the Indiana University professor of urology who led one of the Pfizer trials.

Like the contraceptive pill, Viagra is a drug that will change the pattern of people's lives. It will bring a lot of pleasure, and perhaps a little pain. The pill that set out to treat angina has developed ideas well beyond its station.

NIGEL HAWKES

● *Front page picture: ALPHA*

FRANK SPOONER



Viagra is the fastest-selling legal drug in history. Impotence specialists have been so besieged with requests that one had a rubber stamp made to speed up the writing of prescriptions

Good-time gumdrops

Picture a spacious house in Malibu, or in the canyons above Sunset Boulevard. The night is young but full of promise. A well-stocked bar is in full flow on the terrace, and get-on-down music pulsates through the bougainvillea. The guests are of the swingin' disposition — doubly so tonight, thanks to a dish of dull blue diamonds inside on the coffee table.

It is happening already. "My patients have seen it at parties where there's open sex," says a respected Santa Monica doctor, who has written dozens of Viagra prescriptions since its introduction in America in April.

"It's sitting there in jars, sort of like cocaine in the 1980s, and it's not just the elderly who are using it. The feedback I've got is that it enhances performance in younger, potent men too. The erection is harder, lasts longer and you're ready to do it again quicker."

The medical literature on Viagra says it does nothing for "non-impotent" men. Then again, the medical literature is looking passé now. In ten wild weeks the "Pfizer riser" has made the leap from baby boomers' wonderdrug to pan-generational social phenomenon.

It's not just LA studs who are using it as the good-time gumdrop of the *fin de siècle*. It is also women, young and old, experimenting with it months ahead of clinical trials on the strength of rumours that it aids vaginal lubrication and intensifies the female orgasm. In such reckless times it comes as no surprise to hear a *Playboy* columnist swear that Viagra's social impact will be "as monumental as the birth-control pill".

Irving Mesher, 73, is having a Viagra party of his own. This may be more what Pfizer had in mind, since at least one in four American men his age suffer from some degree of impotence and the drug is aimed at them. With more than a million of them already using it, the only remarkable thing about Mesher's bash may be that he announced it in *Time*, and added for good measure that he's a nudist.

Overall, the implications are momentous. Until this spring, the tacit admission of men entering what Gail Sheehy has called "the third age" was that for many of them it would simply not involve penetrative sex. That is now history. Despite the manufacturer's caveats about headaches and blueish vision and Viagra not working for all, everyone with an ounce of desire left in them now has another shot at adolescence.

From coast to coast, Viagra is the stimulant *du jour*. Yet in truth its mass market is not among superannuated teenagers, but among startled and delighted grown-ups who had quietly been foregoing the most intense physical pleasure known to man. Everyone who might find a use for it, and can afford US$8 to $10 per pill, now seems to have it.

"Who wouldn't? At my age you'd be pretty stupid not to," says Mel Konig, 70, a retired LA lawyer unhappily single after two marriages and plenty of sexual adventures in more liberal decades.

"I have some. So do most of my friends. I have no one to use it with right now, but if someone comes along, at least I'll be ready."

In principle, doctors are supposed to conduct a battery of tests on would-be Viagra takers. In practice, it's not hard to get.

"Patients whom I know, if they phone me asking for it, I'm not even having them come in," said one American GP who asked not to be named. "We're even giving it to people with heart disease and diabetes, with cautions, of course."

Well-known impotence specialists have been so besieged with requests that one had a rubber stamp made to speed up the writing of prescriptions. He handed out 300 on day one. In border towns near Canada and Mexico, selling it has become a lucrative cottage industry for pharmacists prepared to honour foreign prescriptions, even though the drug has yet to be certified outside the US.

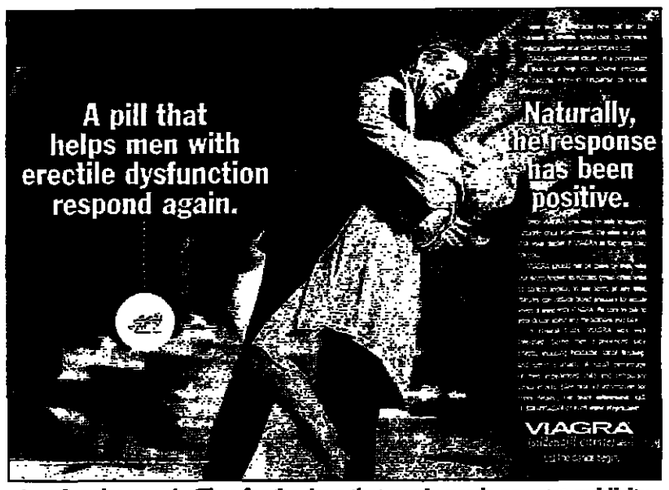
More than 30 deaths have been reported among Viagra users so far. None, though, has been reliably linked to it, and the usually cautious Food and Drug Administration has sounded few alarm bells. That task has fallen to the health insurers, on grounds of cost. Some have agreed to pay for six to 12 pills a month and, as a result, have been drawn into a national debate on whether corporations should decide how much sex is "enough". Others, faced with annual bills they claim could exceed $100 million, have refused to pay up.

Impotence is thus in danger of becoming an affliction of the poor. The prospect was too much for Ace Greenberg, chairman of Bear Stearns, who last month earned the derision of his wife and Wall Street by giving $1 million to impoverished Viagra users.

Perhaps he understood the drug better than the late-night talk show hosts who have mocked it for months. As one Canadian recalled after driving to New York state to buy it: "About two in the morning, my wife and I couldn't sleep. We were laughing and crying and holding each other, and wondering how many other people had gone through exactly what we had."

With testimonials like that, is it any wonder that Viagra has become the fastest-selling legal drug in history with almost no advertising?

GILES WHITTELL



An advertisement in *Time* for the drug that surely needs no extra publicity



Ace Greenberg donated £1m to buy Viagra for the poor last month

WHAT THEY SAY

■ "My face went purple and my eyes popped out of my head. I looked like a bullfrog. My wife found it hilarious." Dr Richard Petty, a Harley Street physician, on his experience of testing Viagra.

■ *The value of the Church of England's shareholding in Pfizer, makers of Viagra, has doubled since the end of 1997 when it was worth £1 million* (Daily Mail, *June 3*).

■ "Couples could become more lazy, meaning that this pill causes some of the artistry of the bedroom to be lost." Desmond Morris, the zoologist and author of *The Naked Ape*, warns that over-use could be counterproductive.

■ *A widow is planning to sue Pfizer because her husband, Harry Howorth, 65, collapsed and died after taking a Viagra pill and then making love to her. Gerri Howorth, 64, of Visalia, California, said her husband had a heart condition. One expert said: "If you can't walk up two flights of stairs without difficulty, you should not be taking this drug."* (Daily Record, *June 6.*)

■ Hsieh Hui-ling, 31, a prostitute in Taipei, Taiwan, killed a 70-year-old client because she could not bear his sexual advances after he took Viagra. She said he choked and beat her after she refused to have sex with him a second time. She added: "He just turned into a different man and was unusually excited after taking two tablets." (*The Mirror*, June 25.)



■ *"The erection is the last gasp of modern manhood. If men can't produce erections they will evolve themselves out of the human species. I want men to examine why they need this pill. It's like the steel they'd get if they were at war." Camille Paglia, post-feminist commentator (pictured above).*



■ "It's a great drug. I wish I'd bought stock earlier." Bob Dole, 74, defeated Republican presidential candidate (pictured above).

■ *"I don't know. I don't go to bed with him." Luciano Pavarotti's spokesman when asked whether the opera star, who is engaged to a woman 34 years younger than himself, uses Viagra* (New York Daily News, *June 29*).



■ Roberta Burke, 63, is suing her former common-law husband for $2 million in New York. She claims that Frank Bernardo, a 70-year-old millionaire (pictured above), dumped her for a younger woman four days after taking Viagra. The couple had been together for ten years and Mr Bernardo had been impotent for the past four. He left Mrs Burke, she said, saying: "It's time for me to be a stud again". (*Evening Standard*, June 3.)

■ *Dobson vow: NHS won't prescribe Viagra willy nilly* (The Sun, *June 29*).

■ General Sani Abacha, the ruthless and paranoid military dictator of Nigeria, died on June 8, aged 54. Officially the cause of death was a heart attack but, unofficially, Nigeria — a society which loves gossip — is alive with rumours suggesting that after taking Viagra Abacha was enjoying the favours of two women when he started convulsing (*Sunday Times*, July 5).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VIAGRA

Q. How do you take it?
A. Take one 50mg tablet not more than once a day, about one hour before sexual activity (although it may be taken anywhere from 30 minutes to four hours beforehand).

Q. How long do its effects last?
A. Approximately four hours; the half-life of the drug is four to six hours.

Q What are the side effects?
A The US Food and Drug Administration's Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research reports that the most common are: headache, flushes, upset stomach, stuffy nose, urinary tract infection, visual changes such as mild, temporary changes in blue/green colours or increased sensitivity to light, and diarrhoea.

Q. What is the likelihood of experiencing these side effects?
A. In clinical trials, just over one-third of patients reported side effects.

Q. Does taking a larger dose increase the effects?
A. Taking more than the recommended dose does not result in increased efficacy, only an increase in side effects.

Q. Is there anyone who should not take Viagra?
A. Men using medicines that contain nitrates, such as nitroglycerin, should not use Viagra because taken together they can lower the blood pressure too much. For the same reason Viagra should not be combined with recreationally inhaled nitrates such as amyl nitrate/nitrite or "poppers".

Q. Has anyone died after using it?
A. As of June 8, the FDA listed 16 deaths, all men, in which "Viagra was a listed, associated drug".

Q. What are the effects of Viagra on women?
A. Viagra is not indicated for use in women but there are anecdotal reports of effects ranging from headaches to becoming multi-orgasmic.

Q. Is Pfizer working to produce a female equivalent of Viagra?
A. Pfizer is conducting studies of Viagra in women: no data is available yet.

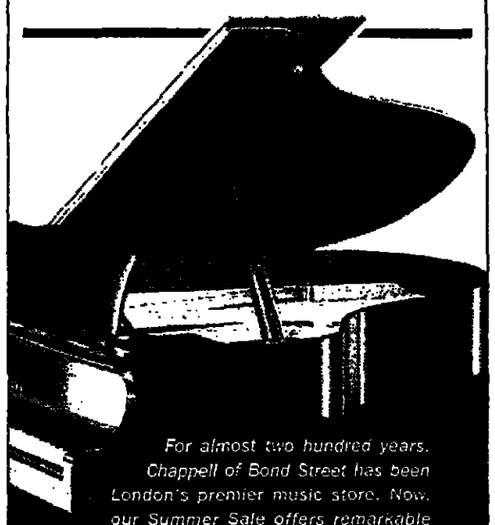
Q. Is the effect of Viagra affected by alcohol?
A. No. However alcohol is known to depress erectile function.

Q. Can Viagra be taken in any other form?
A. No.

Q. What would be the effect if a Viagra pill was slipped into your drink? Would it dissolve? How would you know?
A. It would not fully dissolve.

Q. When will Viagra be available in the UK?
A. It is already available privately on a "named patient basis". The European Medicines Evaluation Agency is expected to license Viagra for EU-wide distribution in September. It will then be available by private prescription. The Government is currently deciding whether it will be available on the NHS as prescribed by GPs or by consultant urologists.

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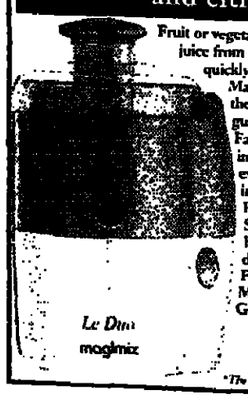
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هكذا من الأصل

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Anne Robinson



● I AM GLAD I am a Kensington and Cirencester housewife and not a committed feminist. Otherwise, just at the moment, life would be a dreadful disappointment.

The new biography of Germaine Greer by Christine Wallace, a political journalist in Sydney, reminds us the woman who more than any other encouraged the sexual revolution in this country lives alone and has long since given up sex. Interestingly, the last I heard, Greer's American counterpart, Gloria Steinem, author of the famous slogan "a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle", was in a similar solitary state.

Which is a bit rum for all those unhappy thirtysomethings I meet who faithfully followed Germaine and Gloria's creed of men-don't-matter, but whose lives have become very unstuck and now want nothing more than lots of lovely sex. And would happily abandon their high-flying jobs if an even half-caring man with a brain the size of a full stop was on offer.

That other "sister", Fay Weldon, whose mouth automatically engages in dangerous, exciting, headline-grabbing sentences as soon as you say "new TV series to plug", meanwhile has caused a terrible upset by saying it's men who now have a raw deal and rape is not the worst thing in the world. And when you compare rape to, say, the death of one's child, she makes an intelligent point. But then, being a Kensington and Cirencester housewife and not a committed feminist, or someone committed feminists look up to, I can say that.

I can also say that Fay, her face lifted, a toyboy second husband in tow and an ever more successful writing career, looks to me to have the hang of life rather better than the rest.

● A SPLENDID party to celebrate the 222nd anniversary of Independence given by the twinkling American Ambassador Philip Lader in the grounds of Winfield House in Regent's Park, the ambassadorial residence. "Three thousand acceptances," one of the embassy staff told me. Which easily explained why traffic round Baker Street and the park was pretty much at a standstill and lots of the chauffeur-driven cars were huge Mercedes with darkened windows and number plates like Zim 1.

Certainly the guest list was pretty starry. As Penrose remarked, it was like walking round Madame Tussaud's, except the figures were moving. Kathy Lette, the lovely Australian novelist who we bumped into, suggested there should have been designated areas depending on your profession. So politicians in one corner, writers in another. But having spotted Richard Wilson talking to Bob Hoskins, and Hugh Laurie and Griff Rhys Jones in another huddle, and Claire Short and Tony Banks arriving on each other's coat-tails, I'm not sure anyone needed organising. A pity really for me that Terry Wogan was leaving just as we got through the gates.

● OUR OWN acquaintance with the American diplomatic corps in London goes back a couple of years to when Penrose was dragging our snooty English setter Maudie for her late-night walk. A couple of passing Americans suddenly leapt upon her and begged to know where they could get one the same. Since it was near midnight Penrose wasn't sure they were serious, but they gave him an address round the corner and, as promised, he popped in the post the name of Maudie's breeder.

Six months later we received an invitation to join them for dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving. We accepted over the phone and only when the embossed invitation arrived — and the American Embassy protocol office politely requested our CVs — did it become clear that Bob and Marsha Bradtke weren't after all two middle-aged backpackers with ideas above their station, but distinguished diplomats. He currently being the minister at the US Embassy and formerly Warren Christopher's right hand man.

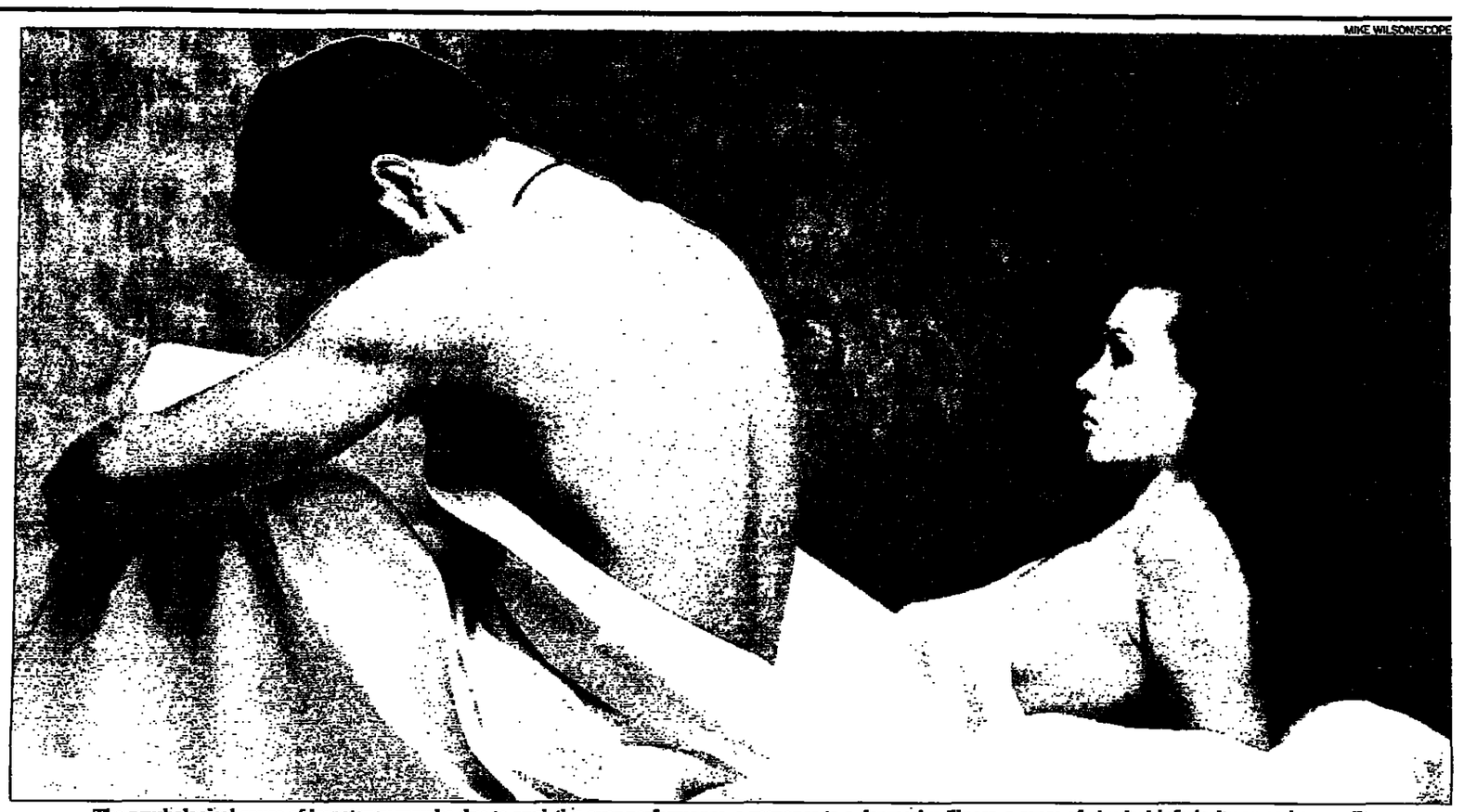
Anyway, they now own Devon, a very beautiful, engagingly energetic English setter. Although Maudie, it has to be said, finds him a bit of a pain.

● THE OTHER week, I mentioned the 1969 Transatlantic Air Race in which I was a competitor along with Clement Freud, who won the London/New York-via-Shannon category. His rivals, four seconds behind him, were two brothers representing a travel agent's. Not, as I said, the Lord brothers. Christopher Lord and his late brother Stephen were indeed prominent travel agents in the Sixties, but very definitely did not take part in the race. My apologies. I only wished I had pursued Cle to confirm the details, because he has an astonishing memory and when occasionally we meet can still repeat to me a phone number I had thirty years ago.

● I HAVE just swatted a fly. Or at least I cheated and sprayed it with Johnson's Raid. This took several goes. So the windows of my study are now a horrible mess. It occurs to me that if Johnson could combine a fly killer with an effective cleaner for glass it might have a real winner on its hands.

It's not all in the mind

Relax, says **Dr Thomas Stuttaford**, impotence has some physical causes



MIKE WILSON/SCOPE

The psychological cause of impotency may be due to anxieties over performance, a response to a depressive illness, a sense of physical inferiority or perhaps guilt

Before the views of the psychoanalysts gained supremacy, the standard male doctor's approach to impotence was reassuringly simple. "There is no such thing as an impotent man, only an incompetent woman." The pendulum soon swung the other way so that 25 years ago impotent men were being told that their troubles were the result of an unconscious desire to punish their sexual partners, it was all their fault and the fault lay in their minds and not in the blood or nerve supply to their genitals.

There is, of course, some truth in some cases in any theory advanced to explain impotence and the misery it causes. Men who are impotent feel worthless, rejected, unattractive, unloved and inadequate, so that however strong the attraction, they are incapable of demonstrating it. They feel they are letting their sexual partners down and once they have failed may be too embarrassed to try again: sadly, if they try again their performance is then likely to be undermined by over-anxiety.

These men should take heart: 75 per cent of cases of impotence, and probably an even larger percentage of those who suffer from minor degrees of erectile dysfunction, are the result of a physical cause. Fewer than 25 per cent have erectile dysfunction for psychological reasons, and of those who do, only in very few cases will there be some deep-seated hatred of women, a fear of their mother or a castration complex.

The psychological causes are more likely to be much simpler and the result of anxieties over performance, a response to a depressive illness, a sense of physical inferiority or perhaps being over-laden with guilt. For a man whose sexual prowess is failing, but hasn't yet entirely petered out, the woman's approach is, of course, all-important. The old-fashioned male doctor was all too often right: the lusty young man is spontaneously and consistently potent. At some time in middle age, the ability to achieve spontaneous erections with a regular partner dwindles and he needs the physical stimulation of an understanding lover. A subtle woman appears keen and appreciative without being over-enthusiastic and demanding, emotions which may make her partner conscious of his failing power.

In a clinic where I once worked, a goodly proportion of impotent, late middle-aged men were able to resume sexual intercourse after they and their partners had been briefed on the physical causes of their disability and the woman encouraged to fan some feeble ember into at least a flame, if not a raging furnace.

At the first visit to the doctor, the common organic causes for erectile dysfunction are explored. The most common troubles are vascular. Older men's feet grow cold, their noses blue and their coronary and cerebral arteries narrow. It is too much to hope that the arteries leading to the penis remain open while those all around constrict. Most erectile dysfunction happens because the artery supply to the penis is no longer adequate. The other vascular cause is that the penis fills adequately but the venous outflow is not constricted and the blood drains away.

The next major cause for erectile dysfunction is damage to the nervous system. The peripheral nerves in the older age groups are not what they were. The skin sensitivity is less and the reflexes less efficient. Various diseases can exacerbate the effect of normal ageing. The spinal cord may have been harmed by some dramatic injury or damaged by a disc lesion. The nervous system may have been impaired by multiple sclerosis or the nerves may have been cut or destroyed by surgery in the pelvis, whether to the bowel or prostate. Diabetic patients are particularly unfortunate: their arteries suffer from atheroma and their nervous system from peripheral neuropathy (a failing sensitivity).

Some men have too little testosterone: their impotence is the result of lack of enthusiasm. They remember the past and wish to recreate it but their libido and sexual drive have waned. Changes to the thyroid may affect libido, as may abnormally high levels of prolactin, a hormone produced by the pituitary.

Shame about a secret desire to practise something perceived as an exotic vice, real or imagined, now rarely causes impotence through guilt: however, the more common simple vices of smoking and a heavy alcohol intake may both do so. High blood pressure by itself, even without the pills taken to treat it, frequently causes impotence.

Although there are still advocates for older methods of treating impotence — vacuum pumps, venous constriction therapy (a euphemism for tying a band round the base of the penis) and implant surgery — there are now three effective modern methods of restoring potency, but not all work for everybody.

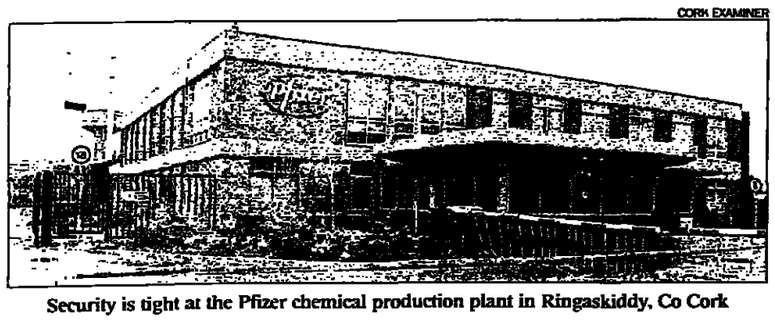
Viagra will help many men, but it only works when coupled with whatever the man finds sexually exciting. It doesn't increase libido by itself. Muse is a tiny pellet inserted into the end of the penis; it nearly always causes a response but not always a very firm erection. It is possible that some will be helped by a combination of Viagra and Muse. The injections — the best known are Caverject and Viridal Duo — are effective but some men never overcome their reluctance to use a needle, however fine.

The outlook has been revolutionised, research continues, but even so it is certain that in a minority of cases, nothing will succeed.

Where Viagra jokes fall flat

Why it's business as usual in Cork

CORK EXAMINER



Security is tight at the Pfizer chemical production plant in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork

PREVIOUSLY a quiet fishing village with a seasonally busy port, Ringaskiddy, Co Cork, has become known as the "erection section" of the Irish economy as it is the only place in the world to produce sildenafil citrate, the chemical which goes into Viagra.

The village with one street and six pubs is delighted with the financial success but irritated by the accompanying ribald humour. "People think we go around in a perpetual state of excitement, but it's not true. Nothing much has changed," said one local, who declined to be named.

The people of Ringaskiddy insist they have not become friskier since production started: neither have they seen any change in the 300 people, mostly men, working in the production plant.

John Mulvihill, chairman of Cork County Council, has offered to test the drug to ensure that the health of his constituents is not jeopardised. "I said to my colleagues in the chamber that if this drug is to be made and licensed in Ireland, then the least we should be able to do is try it out. I am still waiting for an answer," he said.

Security is tight at the Pfizer plant, whose two towers dominate the Ringaskiddy skyline. Managers do not discuss their operation with the media and have forbidden the staff from making any comment, or passing the product to their friends and family.

"Our only hope of getting some is if the workers come out with a little bit of the powder tucked in their pockets to flavour our drinks and pep up people's lives," said Peter Barber, owner of the Ringaskiddy Inn.

The extraordinary international demand for the drug has had a dramatic impact on the Irish economy and secured Ringaskiddy's future. Exports in the first three months of this year were 29 per cent higher than at the same time last year. Economists are attributing much of the success to Viagra as exports of organic chemicals — which include sildenafil citrate — rose by 61 per cent to £1.03 billion.

"The rise is quite dramatic," said Dan McLaughlin, chief economist with ABN Amro. "There is no doubt that Viagra is contributing in a strong way to the success of the Irish economy."

In Ringaskiddy, the impact has been less dramatic, but about 100 more people are expected to be taken on at the plant soon.

AUDREY MAGEE





LEFT: The Swimpets duck flippers, £3.95 from Harrods (0171-730 1234), are white with a yellow ducks bill on each toe and have adjustable ankle straps for secure fastening to little feet

LEFT: The Wet Set inflatable swim ring, £2.99, is made of sturdy vinyl, featuring Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy in Disney-bright colours. From Hamleys (0171-734 3161, mail order available)

Tidal Ware

Gone are the days when beach holidays were a time to lie around doing nothing. According to researchers at the University of Erlangen in Germany, blobbing out on the beach can damage not only your body, but also your mind. Periods of relaxation without any stimulation can cause a permanent fall in intelligence levels.

Fortunately, there is a range of toys for children and adults which will ensure no one gets bored in the process of self-improvement. For speed-loving adults the latest toy is the kite buggy,

BEACH TOYS

an overgrown skateboard with three wheels, steered with the feet and powered by a kite.

Ben Jackson, owner of the London Beach Store, says: "It is cheaper than windsurfing and perfect for anyone who doesn't like the water." As they can reach speeds of up to 50mph he recommends wearing a helmet. The buggies start at £220 and kites range in price from £150 to £700.

Simon Coulter, buyer for the Early Learning Centre, believes buckets, spades and water wheels can help children learn not only social interaction skills, but how different materials like sand and water work together.

"Building in a creative way teaches children to utilise and work with the materials around them," he says.

If you must take a book, make it a heavy one so you can practise your arm curls when not reading it.

MARY ANN PERCY

RIGHT: The Lanard Sun Splasher, £8.99 from Hamleys (0171-734 3161, mail order available), sprays water from its sunny face. Push the anchor spike into the ground, attach a hose and run for cover.

LEFT: The Vortex Howler, £14.99, is more expensive than a paper plane, but it will go further and make more noise. It is made from soft foam, is easy to catch and has three whistles that chime different tones. From the London Beach Store (0171-243 2772)

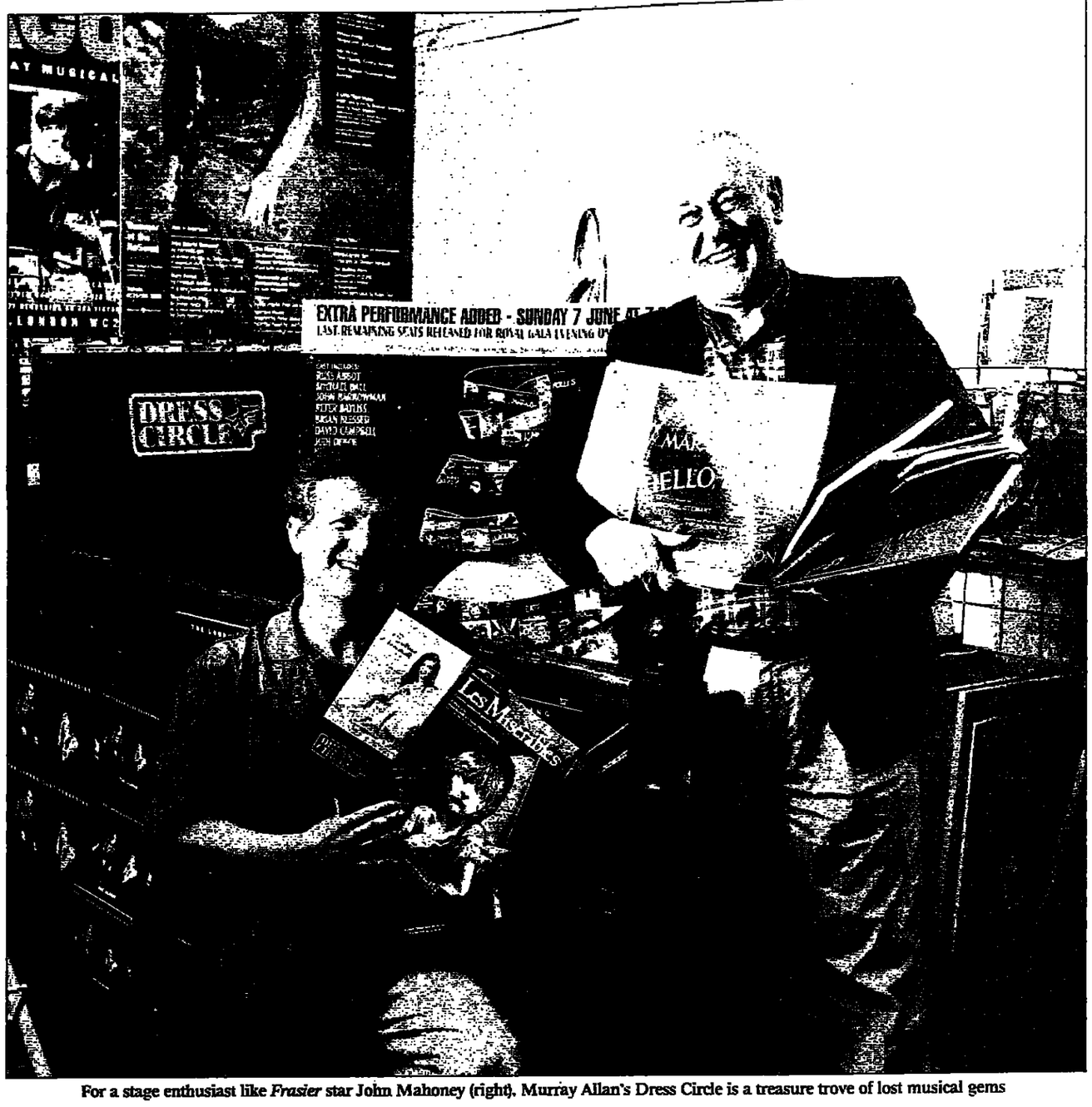
LEFT: One way to get children to carry their own beach toys is with the Funny Beach Fun rucksack, £9.95 from John Lewis (0171-828 1000). A truck, two spades, a fork, two sand moulds and a floating whale pack into a clear, zip-up bag

BELOW: The all-in-one bucket and ball set, £3.99 from Woolworths (0171-262 1222), includes a yellow spade, rake and bucket, a blue sieve and a clear rubber ball covered in colourful fish

RIGHT: Brush up on your bowling skills at the beach with a plastic skittle set. Nine skittles and two balls in bright green, red, blue and yellow, come in a handy carry-stand, £5.95 from John Lewis (0171-828 1000)

LEFT: Adorned with smiling froggy faces, the Swimpets armbands, £4.95 from Harrods (0171-730 1234), will help keep kids afloat in water. Available in two sizes, 1 to 6 years and 7 to 12 years

Photographs by Des Jenson



DES JENSON

For a stage enthusiast like *Frasier* star John Mahoney (right), Murray Allan's Dress Circle is a treasure trove of lost musical gems

Broadway dreaming

Frasier star John Mahoney tells **Sue Fox** of his musical passion

my favourite shop

He may be jet-lagged and still on Chicago time, but after a visit to Dress Circle, the London poster and musical shop, actor John Mahoney is ready to sing and dance his way back to the Waldorf Hotel.

He first went to the shop, owned by businessman Murray Allan, a few years ago to buy a record that friends said would be impossible to find and bought not one, but two copies.

Now he goes there almost every time he is in London and, he says, "You need time because the stock is so extraordinary."

Stephen Sondheim, Don Black and Elaine Paige often visit Dress Circle, in Monmouth Street, at the heart of Theatreland, to buy records or posters, or to pick the brains of manager Michael Nelligan.

He can answer almost any question on musical memorabilia. Whether you want the Japanese or Russian cast recording of *Hello Dolly* or need sheet music for an obscure musical, Mr Nelligan knows where to find them.

His own collection, built over 30 years, is of music, playbills and posters from musical flops — "The ones people have never heard of, like the 1959 show version of *Juno and the Paycock* by Marc Blitzstein," he says. The bigger the flop, the more his eyes light up.

Mr Mahoney, who stars as Martin Crane, the father in hit American TV series *Frasier*, is in town with Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company to play the irascible Sheridan Whiteside in its production of the classic George S Kaufman and Moss Hart comedy, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

He tells Mr Nelligan the show was once made into a musical called *Sherry*. "It didn't do well," he says. "But the title song was great."

As soon as he finishes speaking you sense another flop collector's item has been logged with the manager.

Although Mr Mahoney has lived in America since he was 19, he was born in Blackpool and fell in love with theatre while watching pantomime as a child in Manchester.



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Dress Circle, the London poster and musical shop

He remembers joining the Stretford Children's Theatre Group, where he performed Shakespeare, Sheridan and Shaw, playing Polonius when he was 12. Later, there were trips to Hulme Hippodrome to see Frankie Randall, Arthur Askey and Max Bygraves.

However, on arriving in America, he lost his nerve for the stage. It was only after working as a teacher, then as a writer on a medical journal, that he decided to become an actor, "which is what I'd always wanted", he says.

Despite his acting talent, Mahoney would like to be a musical star — "like one of those on the records in Dress Circle". Regretfully, he doesn't have the voice for it. "I once sang four songs in a show called *The House of Blue Leaves* by John Guare, which was perfect because I played a man who couldn't sing very well," he says.

He is passionate about music and admits to buying a CD a day. There are several records in Dress Circle that he'd like to own: *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, another Guare musical, "and *Noel and Gertie*, which I've never seen in the States, and recordings by Elsie Carlisle, Jack Buchanan and Leslie A Hutchinson". He adds: "I wasn't around when they were performing in England, but I feel nostalgic about them."

The band singer Ray Noble is another who makes him go sentimental, especially if mentioned in the same sentence as the word vinyl.

In his music room at home in Chicago, a former closet and bathroom knocked into one, he has recently installed a turntable to play old LPs.

When not performing with Steppenwolf, Mahoney is in Los Angeles from August to March recording *Frasier*. But once a month he tries to go to his home in Oak Park — a suburb described by Ernest Hemingway as having "wide lawns and narrow minds".

"But that has changed," he protests. "Oak Park is a pretty progressive little town now."

In his fantasies, Mahoney would have loved to sing and dance on Broadway, but in reality he is stuck on stage. Next spring, he and two others from Steppenwolf are taking over in Yasmina Reza's play *Art* on Broadway. All he can hope is that someone comes up with *Art, The Musical*.

Meanwhile, he is content treading the boards at the Barbican. "Our theatre in Chicago seats 500, the Barbican seats 1,500," he says. "When we make an entrance here we have to walk three times as far as we do at home."

It is not exactly dancing, but for now it will have to do.

● *The Dress Circle, 57-59 Monmouth Street, London WC2H 9DG. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm (0171-836 8270)*

● The Man Who Came To Dinner *is at the Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) from Thursday until July 25.*

GADGETS

WHEN it comes to chilling wine, there is nothing more camp than The Really Cool Wine Chiller (pictured).

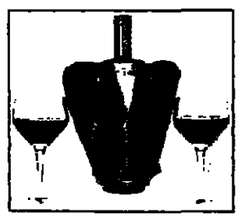
It looks like a black leather biker's jacket over a white cotton T-shirt, replete with zips, fussy silver badges and shoulder pads that Joan Collins would die for.

Two reusable ice packs are frozen and slipped into the jacket, which then goes over a bottle of wine for accelerated chilling.

The bottle fills the jacket perfectly, making it look like a headless mannequin.

Were it life-size, it is unlikely it would be worn with pride as it is made from lookalike leather. On the plus side, being plastic, it won't matter if you sling the whole thing in the freezer.

IF THE answer is Magic Balls, what is the question? How do you clean the bottom of a decanter? Or a dirty yard of ale glass? Or a vase?



A jar of Magic Balls has hundreds of copper ball-bearings which can clean a dirty container by swirling them around in it with suds.

They are effective and reusable, even if rinsing is fiddly. (Copper pennies may make an effective substitute.)

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *The Really Cool Wine Chiller, £12.95, from Eddingtons (01488 686565). Magic Balls, £3.95 plus p&p, from Lakeland Limited (015394 88100).*

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هكذا من الأصل

Sharp-dressed and well suited

The start on Tuesday of London's first Men's Fashion Week will probably not be, as the press hype promises, "the most exciting development in the history of men's fashion in the UK". But it is yet another welcome sign that men in this country are taking more care about what they wear. Not just on weekends, when cords and Aran jumpers are at last being abandoned for well-cut trousers and soft cashmere tops, but during the week too, when for many suits are still the uniform of the day.

The wealthy have always owned a bespoke suit — the best from the tailors of Savile Row, such as the royal tailors Anderson & Sheppard, Henry Poole, or Huntsman — but the clothing revolution has spread from the Row to the high street. A new culture of tailoring has infiltrated even the coolest brands, and good-quality suits are now part of seasonal collections by hip British designers such as Jeffery Green, All Saints and DA Lilliard (all showing next week), as well as established menswear supremos like Joseph, Patrick Cox and Ozwald Boateng.

Far from being the preserve of crusty old men with tape-measures, the tailor's is now a cool place to be: whether it is in Timothy Everest (who has just been signed up by Marks & Spencer), Mark Powell in Newburgh Street, Richard James at one end of Savile Row or Carlo Brandelli at Kilgour, French and Stanley at the other end.

High cost is no longer an excuse for not having a suit, according to Chris Sullivan, style editor of *GQ*. "Now there are off-the-peg suits made in high-quality Italian cloth available at Marks & Spencer from £150," he says, "they cost little more than a designer shirt and trousers — which are designed in the main, I might add, to go out of fashion."

And, unlike ten years ago, when suits had to be adapted to the seasons — tweeds and heavy worsteds for winter, linen for summer — they are now made of technically sophisticated fabrics that adapt to the weather and the flexible demands of city life.

Hermès's citywear is made of stretch flannel wool and cashmere; Alfred Dunhill's Traveller range is in crease-resistant wool; and Ermenegildo Zegna's suits are made of its own-label wool, which is elastic yet warm.

The high streets, too, are producing high-performance models at basic prices: M&S has the best version, a high-twist yarn suit designed to stretch, from £140; Next has a wool-plus-Lycra version for £150, and Burton stocks a similar "crease-resistant" model for £160, albeit a polyester one.

Whatever the style, there are some basic rules to buying a suit, Mr Sullivan says, and telltale signs which show the quality of the make. High-quality versions, for example, will have wool-wadding shoulder pads and free-floating canvas interfacing (iron-on interfacing often bubbles in an unsightly way after a few visits to the dry cleaners). Checks and double-breasted versions will not flatter a portly figure; narrow-legged trousers will accentuate large feet; and turn-ups and long jackets will make short men look shorter.

"The idea the suit reflects the establishment no longer exists," says designer Joe Casely-Hayford. "Men now realise they can wear trainers with them, or T-shirts, for casual daywear, or can dress them up for the night or more social events.

"For me, they are part of the attempt to get away from season-defining trends, and back to clean classics that are versatile. It is all part of the quiet revolution in menswear, away from the big, brash statements of the Eighties towards a quiet, but still profound, movement in the Nineties."

If that means British men will soon take the same care as Italians in the suits they buy, and the way they look, *vive la révolution.*

LISA GRAINGER



Charcoal windowpane-check suit, £450; orange shirt, £65; orange spotty tie, £55, Kelsey, 58 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1 (0171-404 1616). Photographer: ANNA STEVENSON. Grooming: Firyal Arneil for Daniel Hersheson (0171-434 1747). Stylist: Amandip Uppal



Suit, £250, All Saints, W1 (0171-323 3883). Shirt, £85, Burro, WC2 (0171-240 5120). Sandals, £135, Johnny Moke, SW10 (0171-351 2232)



Suit, £200, House of Fraser (0171-963 2236). Shirt, £120, D.A. Lilliard, W1 (0171-379 8399). Sandals, £135, Johnny Moke, as before. Cufflinks, £15, Jeffery Green, SW11 (0171-978 7979)



Stone jacket, £360; stone trousers, £165; olive shirt, £75, Patrick Cox, 129 Sloane Street, SW3 (0171-750 8886)

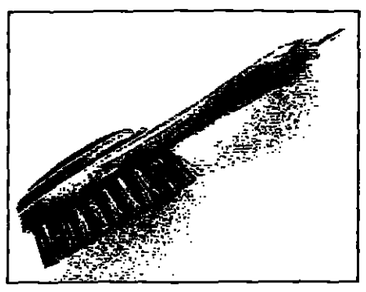


Charcoal grey suit, £140, Marks & Spencer (0171-935 4422). Grey shirt, £69; tie, £49, Mulberry, W1 (0171-491 3900)

THREE OF A KIND

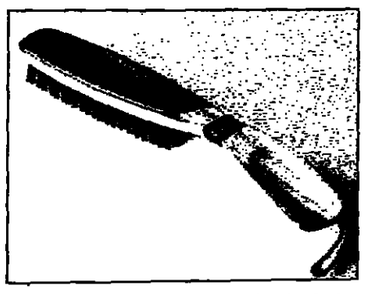
Even the most expensive fabrics pick up fluff. Here are three of the best clothes brushes to ensure suits stay in top condition. LG

BELOW: Wooden clothes brush, £4.99, Tie Rack, branches nationwide (0181-230 2333)



ABOVE: Clothes brush, £2.99, Savacentre, branches nationwide (01189 368000)





ABOVE: Leather-backed clothes brush, £26.75, Hardy Amies, 14 Savile Row, W1 (0171-734 2436)

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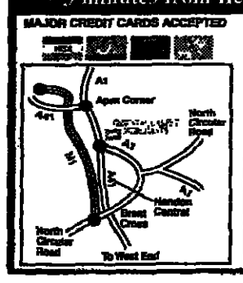
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• Needlepoint 9' x 7'	£965	£ 481
• Tabriz, Iran 13'2" x 9'8"	£2850	£ 648
• Keshan, Cream 13'3" x 9'10"	£3250	£ 988
• Isfahan, Cream 13' x 10'	£3950	£1148
• Anbusson 13' x 10'	£3960	£1980
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The Times Cook

For long, lazy summer days nothing can compete with simple yet sublime classic country cuisine from France



Frances Bissell

Between Dax and Pau in *le grand sud-ouest* is the rich, fertile area known as *les Landes*, and within that area is Chalosse, a district famous for its poultry, whether ducks and geese for confits and foie gras, or chickens reared in the open air. The fast-ripening maize stands tall and now fills almost every cultivated field. Each farm has its rack of dried maize cobs from last year's harvest, and it is not difficult to understand why chickens from this part of France will more often than not be corn-fed birds.

There are few better ways of cooking a large, full-flavoured, well-fed, well-exercised chicken than the very simple *poule au pot*. Henri, prince of Navarre, who became Henri IV of France, is credited with this dish; it was his wish that every French citizen would be wealthy enough to afford to eat chicken every Sunday.

Born in the château of Pau, his entry to the world was marked in true Béarnais fashion with a drop of Jurançon wine and a clove of



garlic rubbed on his lips. A Jurançon sec would be the perfect companion to this dish, which is excellent for Sunday lunch.

To accompany it, I have chosen two other favourite French recipes, the classic *salade niçoise* and *clafoutis*. An alternative first course might have been the fragrant *soupe au pistou*, full of basil and summer vegetables, but that would make for two liquid dishes. And I love quiche lorraine and onion tart, but neither of these would have balanced the *clafoutis*: two dishes with eggs, butter and cream.

For me, the essential *niçoise* ingredients are tomatoes cut in wedges, the sweetest you can find, olives and extra virgin olive oil, garlic, capers and anchovies. To these I would add quartered Little Gem lettuces, freshly cooked green beans and broad beans, fresh artichoke hearts, given the time to pare them, and perhaps some freshly cooked new potatoes. Anything else is gilding the lily.

But ask six cooks for their *salade niçoise* recipe and they will give you six different versions. Consult ten cookery books, and you will read just as many recipes. Some, such as *Larousse gastronomique*, maintain that with the possible exception of hard-boiled eggs, nothing cooked should go into the salad, particularly potatoes.

It takes little detective work to arrive at some of the constituents of a dish that started life as a simple, robust, seasonal local salad. The dressing will be made of fruity olive oil, since the hinterland of Nice is still rich in olive groves. Little black olives will also garnish the salad. Garlic and anchovies complete the provision of underlying flavours. Capers and sun-ripened field tomatoes are abundant in Provence and will also be included.

Whether the rest of your ingredients are raw or cooked, or a mixture of both, depends on whether you have a garden full of vegetables that you can pick when tender enough to need no cooking, or access to a market as good as the one in Nice, where vegetables are fresh, young and tender.

For most of us who rely on greengrocers or supermarkets for our vegetables, a quick boiling or steaming may well improve the flavour and texture of green beans, broad beans or quartered baby artichoke hearts.

Freshly cooked new potatoes, halved and just cool, are so good in salads, especially with lettuce, tomato, garlic and anchovies, that I would have to include them. Hard-boiled eggs I leave out.

If I were serving the salad as a main course, canned tuna fish would be a nice addition, but I would drain off the oil in which it was canned, as this would not be as good as the olive oil I would use. Green peppers often figure in *salade niçoise*, but not in mine. I cannot stand unpeeled raw peppers of any colour. I summarise my recipe below.

Fruit tarts and pastries are one of the classic Sunday lunch desserts in France. They are unlikely to made at home, but bought from the local patisserie. No one minds this, rather you are congratulated on living near a *maître-patissier*. However, this is the best time of year to make fruit tarts. Apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, muscat grapes and greengages are now, or just about to be, in season, and are the fruit that lend themselves best.

Clafoutis is a simpler dessert than fruit tart, and the only thing that takes time is the stoning of the cherries: you can replace the cherries with apricots if you prefer. It is almost identical to English hasty puddings, a thick batter poured over fruit and baked in the oven.

Although it can be served straight from the oven, I like it best when just warm. Leftovers are popular for breakfast.

Salade Niçoise in summary

Essential: tomatoes, olives and olive oil, capers and anchovies.

Suggested additions: lettuce, green beans, broad beans, artichoke hearts and new potatoes.

Optional extras: hard-boiled free-range eggs, canned or freshly cooked tuna fish.

Vinaigrette (to be added at the table): fruity extra virgin olive oil, garlic, wine vinegar and seasoning.

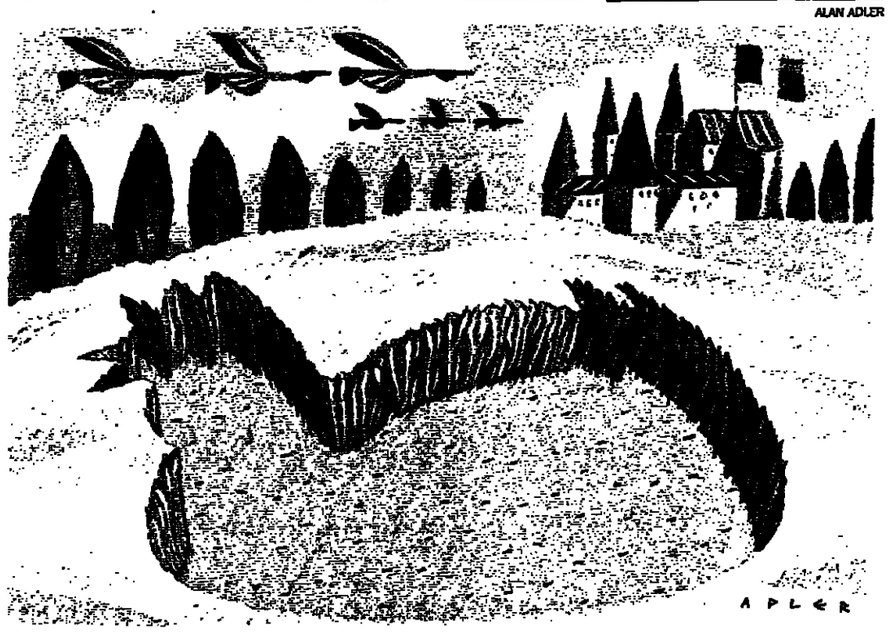
La Poule au Pot
Serves 4 to 6

- 1 large oven-ready free-range chicken, about 2kg
- 1 veal bone or pig's trotter
- Large sprig of lemon thyme or plain thyme
- 1 celery stalk
- 1 onion stuck with four cloves
- Salt, pepper
- Parsley stalks
- Bay leaf
- 12 young carrots, peeled or scrubbed
- 12 small turnips, peeled
- 12 pickling onions or shallots, peeled
- 1 small cabbage, cut into wedges

Stuffing (optional)

- 200g belly pork, rind removed and minced
- 2 to 3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 1 onion or shallot, peeled and finely chopped
- Handful of parsley, finely chopped
- 6 heaped tbsp fresh breadcrumbs
- 2 free-range egg yolks
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- Salt
- Pepper

ALAN ADLER



MIX ALL the stuffing ingredients together with the finely chopped heart, liver and gizzards.

If the chicken is trussed, remove the string if you wish to stuff the bird. Spoon the stuffing into the cavity, having first removed any excess fat, and either sew up the vent or secure it closed with cocktail sticks. Put the chicken, veal bone or pig's trotter, thyme, celery stalk and onion in a stockpot, and cover with water. Add a little seasoning, the bay leaf, parsley stalks, neck and wing tips and other trimmings.

Bring the water just to the boil, skim any foam from the surface, lower the heat and poach the chicken very gently for an hour. The water should not boil. After an hour, remove the herbs, celery and onion, and add the prepared vegetables. Bring back to the boil, lower the heat, and poach until the vegetables are just cooked. Throughout the cooking, the surface should be skimmed occasionally to remove any impurities.

Transfer the chicken to a carving board, and the vegetables to a serving platter. Cut up the chicken, and arrange with the vegetables, moistening with a little of the broth. Serve the broth first with a slice of stuffing in each bowl and then the meat and vegetables together with rice, noodles or new potatoes.

Whichever starchy accompaniment you have chosen will already have been cooked, of course, and for the cooking liquid, use some of the broth from the pot of chicken.

The veal or pig's trotter will provide enough gelatin in the broth for you to serve a cold *poule au pot*. Make this by arranging the vegetables, chicken and stuffing in a deep platter, and pour over it the strained, reduced stock. Cool, then chill until just set.

Clafoutis
Serves 6

- 50g unsalted butter
- 2 free-range eggs
- 2 free-range egg yolks
- 5 heaped tbsp flour
- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp kirsch (optional)
- 50g sugar
- 350g stoned cherries or apricots

THE PERFECT
SOLE A LA MEUNIÈRE

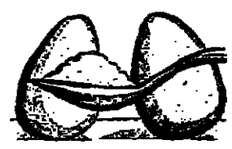
THIS MIGHT sound like a fancy French recipe, but it is an extremely simple dish to cook, relying more on good ingredients than intricate techniques. Who knows if the dish was indeed first cooked by a miller's wife whose hands were still floury when her husband brought home fresh sole?

■ INGREDIENTS, for two people: two Dover sole, skinned, cleaned and trimmed, salt, some milk in a soup plate, flour in another, freshly ground pepper, unsalted or clarified butter for frying, some parsley or chervil and wedges of lemon.

■ METHOD: season the fish with salt, dip in the milk, and then in the flour, coating them well. Season lightly with pepper. Have the butter melted and hot, but not burning, in a frying pan, and fry the fish on both sides until done to your liking.

■ SERVE: the sole on heated plates with the butter poured over it, some chopped herbs and the lemon.

Next week:
The perfect tomato soup



BUTTER generously a 23 to 25cm pie dish or quiche dish, place on a baking sheet, and put in the oven. Heat the oven to 180C, gas mark 4. Meanwhile, beat the eggs, flour, milk, kirsch and sugar together until smooth.

Remove the hot pie dish from the oven, pour on half the batter and then add the fruit and remaining batter.

Return the dish on the baking tray to the oven as quickly as possible. Lower the heat to 170C, gas mark 3, and bake for 45 to 60 minutes.

© Frances Bissell 1998

Next week:
Summer preserves

CONSUMING INTERESTS: ICE-CREAM

There are some seductive ice-creams around. I am an addict of Loseley Stem Ginger and Acacia Honey (£1 for 100ml at Wigmore Hall), but this was a more mundane selection of ice-cream, restricted to the ever popular vanilla flavour. For me it is once more a case of whether this stuff is really worth the cholesterol and calories it contains. Take it, please, that I do not think anything with less than three stars qualifies. ROBIN YOUNG



Tesco Very Vanilla Dairy Luxury Ice-Cream
£2.19 for 500ml
Claims: "A beautifully rich dairy ice-cream made with Madagascan vanilla. Suitable for vegetarians."
Verdict: Contains 32 per cent double cream, but even more reconstituted skimmed milk powder, 25.6 per cent sugars, 17.4 per cent fat, plus emulsifier, stabiliser and (unusually) salt. Rich yellowish appearance, good texture, and full flavour, ruined by an excess of sweetness. ½

Safeway Vanilla Vanilla
£1.99 for 500ml
Claims: "The best vanilla ice-cream ever. Acceptable for vegetarians and gluten-free diets."
Verdict: Ignore the marketing hype. This ice-cream has no cream in it, just reconstituted skimmed milk, plus sugar, butter and egg yolk. Nine per cent fat, 10.4 per cent sugars, 8 per cent starch. Flavoured with vanilla. White and smooth in texture, it tastes more of sugar than vanilla, though quite mild. ★

Waitrose Organic Vanilla Ice-Cream
£2.49 for 500ml
Claims: "Smooth dairy ice-cream made from organic ingredients."
Verdict: Made with fresh full cream organic milk, fresh organic double cream, organic unrefined sugar, organic milk powder, pasteurised free-range eggs, vanilla essence. Suitable for vegetarians. It contains 11.8 per cent sugars, no starch, 11 per cent fat. Sweetish but quite uncloying, with unctuous texture, a concentrated rich, full flavour. Best. ★★★★

Asda Gold Medal Vanilla Ice-Cream
£2.49 for 500ml
Claims: "No colours. No preservatives. No artificial flavourings. Gluten free."
Verdict: The recipe (38 per cent fresh cream, 35 per cent skimmed milk, natural vanilla flavouring, 18 per cent sugars, and 17 per cent fat) produces a disappointingly thin texture, sweet, but not richly flavoured. So-so. ★

St Michael Homestyle Smooth Vanilla Dairy Ice-Cream
£3.49 for 750ml
Claims: "Made exclusively for Marks & Spencer in Cornwall by experts who have been making ice-cream for over 60 years. Made with Madagascan vanilla. Suitable for vegetarians."
Verdict: Very smooth and creamy. One per cent vanilla extract. Made with milk (not reconstituted supposedly), double cream, raw cane sugar, concentrated skimmed milk, 17.6 per cent sugars, 15.1 per cent fat. Milky, creamy effect, nicely flavoured and not oversweet. ★★★

Somerfield Real Dairy Ice-Cream Vanilla
£1.99 for 1 litre
Claims: "Dairy ice-cream with vanilla flavour."
Verdict: This modestly presented ice has 22.9 per cent sugars and 10.3 fat. Double cream is well down the list of ingredients. White colour, soft texture. Tastes like the vanilla ice-cream of my youth (not such a good thing — my youth was one of post-war austerity). ★

Harrods Sugar Free Reduced Fat French Vanilla Ice-Cream
£3.55 for 500ml
Claims: "Suitable for diabetics."
Verdict: Made with cream, fructose (8 per cent), polydextrose (6 per cent) and natural flavours, the product has 8.5 per cent fat and 6 per cent "other carbohydrate" (starch or other filler). White, soft, middling sweet, no real vanilla flavour. Another proof that reduced-fat products are not worth buying. No star

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine

Gordon Ramsay's football feast

Jonathan Meades at Conran's latest venture

Peking duck? Forget Beijing, go to Hull, says John Prescott. **Clarissa Hyman** did just that

Ducking the real thing

When is a Peking duck not a duck? When it's a crispy, aromatic duck (or even a crispy Peking duck). Confused? Well, you are in good company.

When John Prescott said this week that the Peking duck served to him at a formal banquet in China was not a patch on the one he gets at Mr Chu's China Palace in Hull, he too was confused. What he did not know is that what the British call Peking duck is an imposter — bastardised for our popular tastes.

It takes a brave heart to challenge the deputy prime minister's judgment — this is a man who makes no bones about kick-starting the day with a bacon butty or three — so I went to Hull to find out whether Mr Chu is truly the Peking Duck Master of the Universe.

I did a little research before travelling, however. The terminological inexactitude and culinary confusion arises because making classic Peking duck is a skilled, time-consuming process. As the eminent Chinese food writer, Yan-kit So, describes it, a whole duck (head, neck and all) is scalded, basted in honey and wind-dried, strung up between the wings as if crucified for ten to 24 hours, then roasted until shiny and laquer-mahogany red. The skin is the most prized part, served on its own with just a layer of luscious fat and a sliver of moist, lushly-flavoured meat.

Anglo-Chinese restaurants for reasons of expediency, economy and popular taste, developed an alternative method based on boiling, then deep-frying. The serving ritual is a martial arts performance, as the hapless scorched bird is ripped into rubbery shreds and shards of brittle, desiccated skin that taste as if you're crunching grasshoppers. Further confusion arises because the Peking duck and the fragrant crispy duck (pay attention at the back) are served with pancakes, slivers of cucumber and spring onion and Hoisin or plum sauce. As endorsed by Mr Prescott, however, this is overwhelmingly the People's Duck.

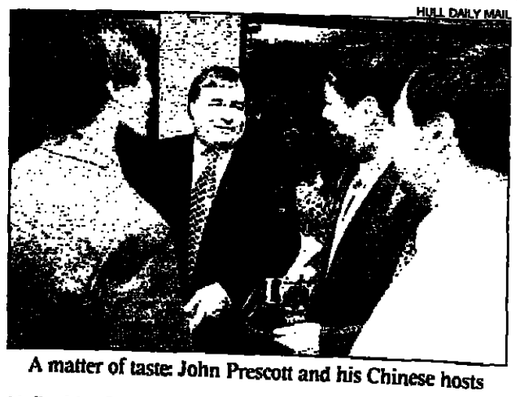
Yan-kit So adds that this technique is a debased variation on a Sichuan style of cooking duck, where it is traditionally served with steamed bread rolls. Chinese pancakes and duck, however, go together in Western minds like Mao and The Little Red Book, but it does not excuse, as she says, the fact most restaurants serve poor-quality pancakes. A large amount of flour is used for ease of production, speed and volume, and the excess integrates poorly with the dough: the result tastes of shoe leather dusted with talcum powder.



Spot the Peking duck: Clarissa Hyman tastes the authentic dish (left) and the one the rest of us get, aromatic crispy duck

The discreet charm of the Peking Duck, whatever it's called, has always eluded me. It is safely exotic but not scary, as blandly ubiquitous as fondue and ribs. Eating duck and pancakes reveals personality traits: there are the finicky ones who genteelly fill and wrap and take cautious little mouthfuls, the apprentice brickie who slaps everything in till it bulges dangerously and dribbles out of the badly constructed end, and the feng shui fan who needs to consult before positioning the angle of the spring onion.

And so to Hull. Having been a regular at Chu's previous restaurant outside Hull, Mr Prescott recently officially opened Canton-born Mr Chu's new restaurant, an event now immortalised with a bold brass plaque. The huge, 500-seater pagoda-style restaurant on the banks of the Humber takes pride of place in St Andrews Quay, a new development dedicated to the pursuit of leisure with marinas, casinos, bowling alleys, cinemas and masses of "eating opportunities". Which version of Peking duck would I get? I was prepared for anything, but not for both.



A matter of taste: John Prescott and his Chinese hosts

Of 200 whole ducks served every week, almost every one is the crispy aromatic version: only an occasional Peking duck *véritable* is served, and then usually to Chinese customers. "If English people order Peking duck, I tell them they won't like it," says Mr Chu. "The English don't like skin, they think it's too greasy and fatty, and find the meat too soft, they prefer the duck much crispier. And Peking duck doesn't look like a lot of meat when it's carved."

Sampling the two, side by side, there was no contest. The glistening pieces of Peking duck were more sweetly-succulent, the freshly sliced vegetables provided textural contrast and cut the richness and Mr Chu's special sauce was full of flavour; the crispy aromatic duck was an excellent example of its genre with plenty of meat. But which did the Prescotts prefer for their big nights out? "I always give Mr Prescott the crispy aromatic," says Mr Chu. "I think that's what he was thinking of when he was in China."

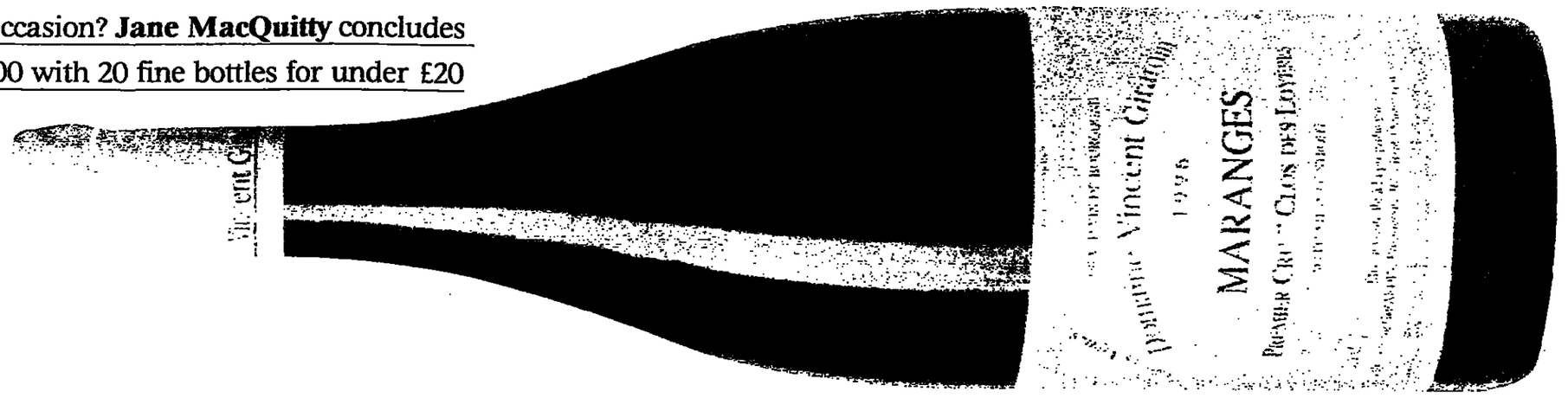
So you pays your money and takes your choice. Mr Prescott is a man who clearly enjoys his grub and who follows the Chirac line when it comes to food: to be a top politician, you've got to be good at eating. As one newish-oldish Labour MP said to me: "John will eat everything, including the Tories."

In this case, he might also have to eat his own words.

هكذا من الأصل

The last of the summer wines

A special occasion? **Jane MacQuitty** concludes her Top 100 with 20 fine bottles for under £20



JANE MACQUITTY

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BEST SUMMER WINES

STAR RED

1996 Maranges, premier cru, Clos des Loyères, Domaine Vincent Girardin, France. *Tanners, 26 Wild Cop, Shrewsbury, Shrops, £12.80; Adnams, £12.65; House of Townend, Red Duster House, York St, Hull, £11.95*

Vincent Girardin's wine is a heroic Côte d'Or example of what a big-hearted red burgundy should be, but often isn't. None of his reds are fined or filtered. They are given up to 18 days in fermenting vats, with treading twice a day to maximise colour and flavour, and finished with 18 months in oak barrels, a third of which are new. Given such gutsy handling, this maranges is no shrinking violet. Rejoice in its dark, seductive, smouldering spice, combined with cherries, plums and crystallised violets.

STAR WHITE

1996 Puligny-Montrachet, Les Charmes, Domaine Gérard Chavy, France. *Safeway (top 15 stores), £16.99*

Safeway is not the first supermarket fine wine drinkers would think of shopping at. But the standard of its wines has taken a giant leap lately and, given the outstanding quality of its white burgundy selection, fans should make a beeline to their nearest top store. Great puligny, like great chablis, has an ethereal chardonnay finesse that New World winemakers would die for. And though Gérard Chavy is known for his honest, straightforward editions, given the support of a ripe, voluptuous vintage like '96, the result is a brilliant, rich, glacé fruit-stashed puligny with a wonderfully elegant, nutty, toasty oak finish.

WHITES

1995 Chablis Premier Cru, Montée de Tonnerre, Domaine Auffray, France. *Montrachet, 59 Kennington Rd, London SE1 (0171-928 1990), £13.51*

Just occasionally the scattered premier cru chablis vineyards outshine those of the seven superior grand cru chablis sites clustered on the steep hill above the town of Chablis, overlooking the tiny Serein river. And that's exactly what happened with this stylish premier cru that made the £6-plus grand cru competition at this tasting look silly. So save your grand cru pounds and rejoice in this smoky, greeny-gold premier cru chablis. Its fine, ripe, classic, green, cabbage-scented palate is typical of a great chablis vineyard and a great chablis vintage.

1996 Château Fuissé, Pouilly-Fuissé Vieilles Vignes, JJ Vincent, France. *Oddbins Fine Wine, £17.49*

The lighter, leafier wines of the Mâconnais will never be in the same league as those of the celebrated Côte d'Or. Even so, this elegant herbaceous, smoky-toasty, white burgundy, made from the Château Fuissé's finest, low-yielding 30-year-old vines, vinified in oak, makes an impressive bottle to wash down light white meat and fish dishes.

1993 Château de Meursault, Meursault Domaine du Château de Meursault, France. *Safeway (top 15 stores), £16.99*

You will have to track down your nearest Safeway top store (ring them on 01622 712987) to winkle out this splendid meursault. The Domaine du Château de Meursault is an impressively large estate with vines in a variety of top white and red burgundy villages. This wine's pretty buttercup-gold colour leads onto an equally bold, buttery palate with that intense nutty, buttery finish so sought after by meursault drinkers. Best served with food, especially white fish, or fowl with creamy sauces.

1997 Mas de Daumas Gassac, Vin de Pays de l'Hérault, France. *Tesco (top 30 stores), £15.99; Adnams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk, £15.95*

Mas de Daumas must be the priciest and most publicity-conscious vin de pays property. With glorious wines being produced vintage in, vintage out — including this highly unusual viognier, petit manseng and chardonnay-dominated white — I mustn't grumble. Enjoy its young, vibrant, zingy, crystallised lemon peel fruit as an invigorating and unusual aperitif.

1996 Weingut Bründlmayer Grüner Veltliner, Alte Reben, Austria. *Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW3, £12.95; Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly, London W1, £12.50*

Delicious top-drawer wines like this deserve a wider audience, yet somehow Austria has never managed to shake off the anti-freeze scandal of the past. So do the decent thing and buy a bottle of this gorgeous ripe, spicy, white pepper and paprika-scented white. Made from ancient 30-to-70-year-old grüner veltliner vines, its typically earthy underbelly finishes on a zingy lemon and grapefruit-spiked finish.

1993 Château Couhins-Lurton, Pessac-Léognan André Lurton, France. *Tanners, 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shrops, £13.80*

André Lurton's impeccable winemaking credentials have produced another grand white graves to remember. Most £13-plus dry white bordeaux I could do without, but this intriguing 100 per cent sauvignon blanc, aged and fermented in oak, delivers amazingly strong, smoky, waxy, grassy flavours with the kind of refinement that the Bordelais usually reserve for their reds. Try this with first courses like asparagus or leafy green salads.

1996 Petaluma Chardonnay, Piccadilly Valley, Australia. *The Wine Society, Gunnells Wood Rd, Stevenage, Herts, and Majestic, £14; Oddbins, £14.99*

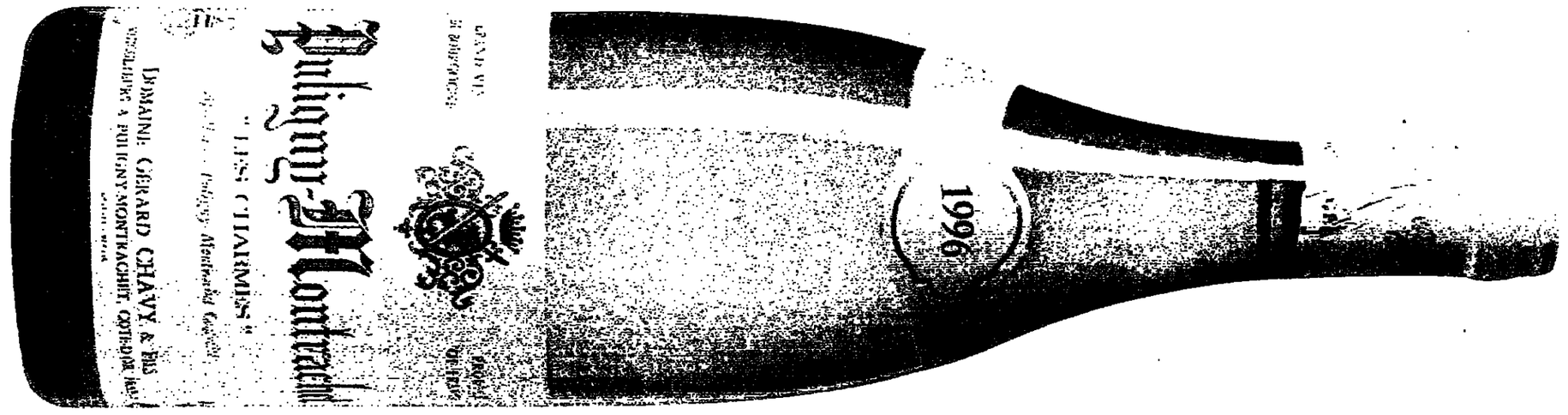
The hand of God and man move slowly as far as vine and wine is concerned and it has taken Brian Croser and the Petaluma team the best part of two decades to produce the sort of world-class chardonnay they wanted to make at the outset. Made entirely from Petaluma's own prime Piccadilly Valley vines, with added elegance from a cooler Australian vintage and Vosges oak barrels, this celestial '96, redolent of crystallised fruit and sweet hazelnut-scented oak, with a buttery, yet restrained nectarine and peach-layered palate, is the best Petaluma chardonnay vintage yet.

Photographs by DES JENSON

SWEET WINE

1995 Vouvray, La Coulée d'Or, Tris de Nobles Grains, Domaine Bourillon Dorléans, 50cl, France. *Majestic Wine, £12.99*

The Loire has had an astonishing run of vintages lately. This glorious pudding wine, from noble botrytis grapes, shows how magnificent 1995 was. Vouvray's intensely sweet late-harvest chenin, if traditionally vinified and with the benefit of six months' barrel ageing, can survive for 60 years or more. So, if you can't find time to enjoy this mouth-wateringly zesty, buttered apricot bottle with a lovely creamy finish, don't worry, you have 59 summers ahead of you.





1994 Joh. Jos. Prüm, Graacher Himmelreich, Spätlese, Germany. *Waitrose Direct, £13.45*

The magnificent 34-acre Mosel estate belonging to one of the great German wine names, JJ Prüm, includes some of the region's finest slate-soil, sun-trap vineyards. If you have yet to understand that top German rieslings are a delicate balance between mouth-wateringly high, racy acidity and ripe, zesty fruit — in this case enhanced by a floral, steely quality reminiscent of the classic riesling hallmarks of lime and petrol — then this gently sweet German is for you.



FIZZ

Bruno Paillard Champagne, Première Cuvée, France. *Nicolas, down £2 to £16.99 until July 16; Yapp Bros, £18.50; Bibendum, London SW3, £18.99*

What a miserable lot of champagnes in this price range. Forget over-priced, millennium-hyped cuvées, we need a good, keenly priced bubbly to cheer up our dire summer. This soft floral blend, with 45 per cent of the pinot noir to the fore, supported by 33 per cent chardonnay and 22 per cent pinot meunier, fits the bill.

REDS



1994 Santenay, Michel Colin-Déléger, France. *Berkmann Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Rd, London N7, £12.90*

Santenay is almost the last village in the Côte de Beaune and is renowned for the earthy, tannic style of its reds. But Michel Colin and his wife Bernadette Déléger try hard to hang on to fruit flavour. This lively, tasty, gamey red burgundy, with plenty of fruit on the palate, is a good example of the family's style.

1993 Pommard, Domaine Lucien Boillot & Fils, France. *Montrachet, £17.63; The Grape Shop, London SW11, £19.99*

Louis and Pierre Boillot's pommards are a treat. Though 1993 was only a very good rather than great red burgundy year, this wine delivers the full, soft, sweet, velvety, strawberry-scented pinot noir fruit, with a fine gamey finish that Boillot fans expect.

1993 Château Gloria St-Julien, Henri Martin, France. *Sainsbury's (80 stores), £16.95; Berry Bros & Rudd (0171-396 9600), £14.20; Eldridge Pope, £16.99*

Glorious Château Gloria has popped up before in my Top 100, with good reason. Even in a rain-soaked vintage like '93, when pre-harvest torrents ruined the likelihood of a good year, the humble cru bourgeois level Gloria has produced a textbook St-Julien claret. This commune is renowned for its vibrant cedary wines and this vintage of predominantly cabernet sauvignon-based Gloria oozes with dark, juicy, concentrated, sandalwood-scented, gamey style.

1995 Château Ludon Pomies Agassac, France. *Majestic, £12.99; Laytons, 20 Midland Rd, London NW1, £12.99*

The supple clarets from this chateau, the second wine of La Lagune, have also featured in my list before. Achieving consistent quality year after year is what a top Bordeaux property should be all about, but any Bordelais who failed to make a good wine in the superb 1995 vintage needs to go back to square one. This '95 is heaped high with big, bold, cedary class and flavour, backed by an enticing crimson-purple colour and cassis-stashed fruit. Not for the faint hearted.

1995 Château Les Hauts de Pontet Pauillac, France. *Sainsbury's (80 stores), £13.95; Laytons, £13.95; The Wine Society, £14.50*

This newly arrived claret is another second wine, this time from Château Pontet Canet. Second labels do not always provide a taste of the château's grand vin at a fraction of the price, but in a superb year like 1995 you would be unlucky to go wrong. I much enjoyed this claret's big, chunky, loganberry scent and taste with the sweet, juicy finish of a ripe year.

1993 Réserve de la Comtesse, Pauillac, France. *Victoria Wine, £17.99; Tanners (see whites above), £14.50; Peatlings, £17.75*

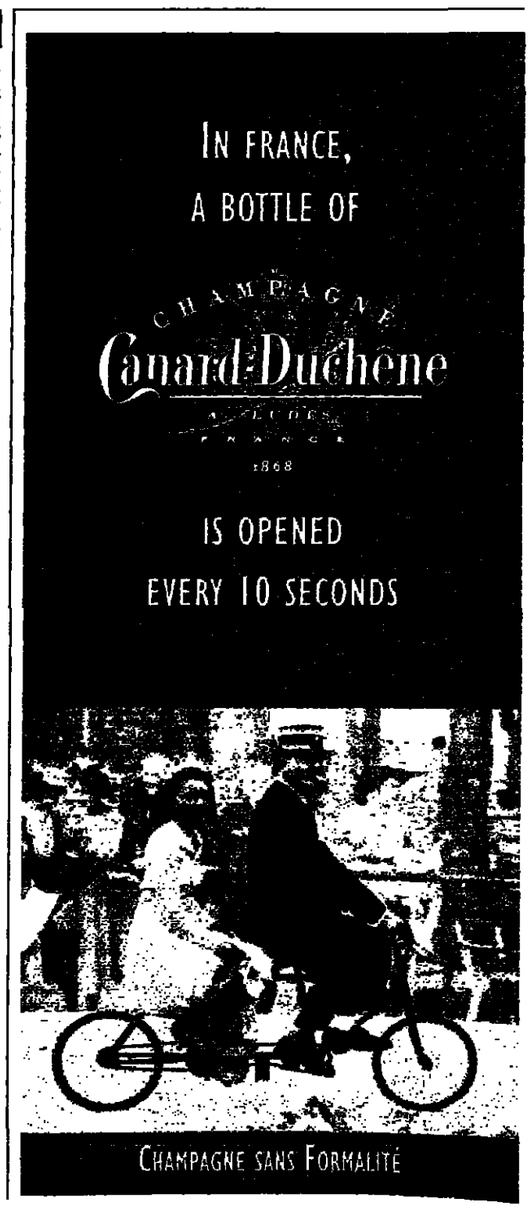
Another hard-to-resist, sumptuous textbook claret, again from Pauillac, this time the second wine of Château Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. A doubly impressive bottle in that it is also a product of the wet 1993 vintage. I was very taken with this appealing ripe, gamey claret, principally a blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot, whose delicious, velvety, cassis-laden fruit is perfectly balanced by scented new oak. It is a winning combination that is harder to achieve than it appears, as New World wine-makers know full well.

1995 San Martino, Villa Cafaggio, Tuscany, Italy. *Berry Bros and Rudd, £18.95; House of Townend, £15.99; Wine Appreciation (01302 700452), £16.45*

Rarely do Italian reds come through as winners in this section. Not because Italy is not capable of producing top-drawer reds and whites for under £20, but chiefly, I suspect, because British merchants, with supposedly ardent francophile customers, are shy of stocking them. Fight your prejudices and tuck into this rare flagship sangiovese from Villa Cafaggio's San Martino vineyard, which is only produced in good years. Aged in French oak for 18 months, this Tuscan red delivers burly, plummy, peppered, oaked style.

1995 Ridge California Lytton Springs Zinfandel, America. *Waitrose Inner Cellar, £18.95; Christopher Piper, 1 Silver St, Ottery St Mary, Devon, £16.85*

As Henschke is to Australia, so Ridge is to California — a towering modern wine classic that makes the rest of the West Coast zinfandel competition look foolish. Paul Draper and his team have never made the mistake of under-rating zin. Instead, they treat it like the great grape it is and make some sensational bottles as a result. Made principally from a blend of three different vineyards' low-yielding, fully ripened zinfandel grapes, this delicious, turbo-charged 14.5 per cent red is all sweet, creamy mulberry and bramble-layered fruit.



Joanna Pitman's labour ended with a dramatic delivery in the street. For baby Alice, the story is just beginning

Not even doctors are perfect

Nobody can ever be totally prepared for a first baby, however many nappies you have stockpiled. But the one thing that nobody thought of advising us to do was to buy a new extra-long running tape for the answerphone machine.

The problem arose after I wrote an article for *The Times* Weekend section last Saturday. It was about my labour, which lasted two hours and ten minutes, and which ended with Alice's arrival into her father's arms on the pavement just a few yards short of the entrance to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. The article was accompanied by a column written by the journalist GP, Dr Thomas Stuttaford, about precipitated labours.

Ever since Saturday we have been besieged by phone calls from angry and worried midwives and healthcare professionals, from family, friends and even from the proprietor of our corner newsagent. All were concerned by the doctor's words. I have always respected Dr Stuttaford's writing, in particular his advice on drinking regular quantities of red wine in moderation (when not pregnant), but this particular piece of writing from him seemed to have stirred up a hornets' nest of angry responses.

Dr Stuttaford expressed concern in his article that precipitated labour can cause brain damage to the baby if the baby's head has not had time to remould itself slowly when it pops out through a comparatively rigid opening. This, I am told by those who deliver babies every day, is nonsense. The dangers to a baby's head apparently arise when it becomes stuck in the birth canal for ten to 40 hours of labour, being squeezed as severely as toothpaste from a tube.

Trauma and potential damage to the baby is far more of a risk in a long labour, according to the midwives at both St Mary's and at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, and this can cause far greater concern than a fast delivery. And as for the question of giving birth whilst standing up causing an inverted uterus and possibly the womb coming out along with the baby, which Dr Stuttaford also raised in his article, I am told that this occasionally happens to sheep, but not normally to humans — not even journalists.



Of course, I did not choose this sort of labour, with my baby arriving while I was still standing on the pavement outside St Mary's. And certainly, before I even became pregnant, I had been adamant that I did not want to go through a natural childbirth without the help of analgesic pain relief. My husband can attest to the fact that for months beforehand, I had been banging on about the virtues of epidurals and had been repeating my "no point in being a martyr — you wouldn't have a major operation without pain relief, would you?" mantra.

So I had made a particularly close study of the various forms of pain relief and I knew exactly which sort to ask for at what stage of labour — a pity I didn't have a chance to test drive an epidural after all that homework. I had also been thinking along the lines of something closer to a Mrs Average sort of labour — which, incidentally, runs to 15 hours.

Fortunately, on reading Dr Stuttaford's article, we had calls from St Mary's and from other friends in the medical profession, reassuring us that Alice should have suffered no brain damage arising directly from her speedy arrival.

My godmother, who had met our lively little daughter, rang up immediately to tell us it was nonsense and not to worry. I hope that other parents who have had precipitated labours have likewise been reassured.

Having spent one night in St Mary's hospital after the delivery, mother and daughter were thoroughly checked over by the paediatrician, by the ward sister, by the numerous midwives and by a consultant, none of whom could find anything wrong with either of us. True, I had had to have a crotch full of stitches and am now diligently doing my pelvic floor exercises — but stitches are not unusual after giving birth. There was no missing womb, and there was certainly no traumatised or damaged baby.

Alice, on the evidence we have seen so far, appears to have positively benefited from the smoothness and speed of her dramatic arrival. She is bright eyed, fully alert — ever on the lookout for more food — and completely aware of what is going on around her.

She has inherited her mother's zen-like karma and sleeps like a dream most nights, and is happy to lie awake playing in her cradle and staring at the multitude of toys brought by all her new friends. If she were a traumatised, irritable or damaged baby, there would probably be no column for this space because she would probably not be lying at this moment staring happily at the leaves waving and rustling about in the garden above her pram.

Alice has embraced her job description of eating, sleeping and defecating — with enormous enthusiasm.



Life behind the green baize doors

The domestic servant is making a comeback, but life 'below stairs' today is a world away from what it was in pre-war Britain.

Rachel Campbell Johnston reports



In 1898, a respectable matron called Mrs Hunt lost most of her money on some dodgy speculation. So she set herself up in business instead, supplying domestic servants to the gentry. In the days when it took a battalion of lackeys to maintain a Victorian household, her enterprise proved profitable. Surprising, perhaps, that 100 years later Mrs Hunt's Agency should still be going strong. Domestic service has swept back into fashion in the 1990s two-salary household. It has become a growth industry.

Naturally, the style has changed somewhat since that old-fashioned era when propriety stood as stiffly as the footman at the door. "The war put an end to the old way of life," says Alice Fairley, 75, who went into service at the age of 17. "Before the war we were nine below stairs, with Mr Baxter and his wife as the butler and cook, Jane as the lady's maid and Edward the valet — he had to iron the newspaper in the morning and warm the sovereigns before they went into Sir's pocket. And then there were the upper and under-housemaids, and the kitchen maid, who peeled the vegetables and skinned the rabbits. I was the nanny then, and I had an under-nanny to help me."

Apparently, the under-nanny was sacked after sucking the jam spoon and sticking it back in the pot. The strictest hierarchies and disciplines were always maintained.

However, the rigidity slackened during the Second World War and was never really re-established. "The butler went off to be a policeman," says Miss Fairley. "I stayed in the country with the two little boys, but I was more like the housekeeper by then. I will always remember a certain gentleman who came to stay. He came down one morning and asked me if I would iron his shoelaces — in those days some shoelaces were made of silk. Well, I drew myself to my full height and said: 'With all due respect, Sir, don't you realise there is a war on'."

> He asked me if I would iron his shoelaces. I said, 'Sir, don't you realise there is a war on'
> — Alice Fairley

With an old-fashioned loyalty, now familiar only from novels, Miss Fairley remained with her employers until her retirement. She never married. "Who would I have met?" she asks.

She now lives alone in a South London flat with sepia photographs and a pair of lustreware lovebirds perched by the old brass carriage clock, her last memento of 20 years in service. But 15 years ago, she went to her former employer's funeral. "I met the old butler, Mr Roberts, there too. We stood together in a corner of the graveyard so as not to intrude on the family's grief."

The picture she paints is not just of devotion, but of a heartbreaking loneliness. Life behind the green baize door, in which every staff member knew his or her place and kept to it, could be very solitary.

Helen Murphy remembers her first job as a housemaid in an Aberdeenshire castle. "I went there at the age of 16 in 1954," she says, "and stayed four years. I shared a room with the kitchenmaid overlooking the woods. She was my only companion. The cook was more than 60 years old and Mr Perry, the butler, lived with his family in the lodge. I had to be up at 5.30am with my white pinny starched to carry out the ashes from the grates, polish the brasses and fill the fire-baskets with coal and peat." At the end of the day she would go up to her room with a hot water bottle and a pot of tea. "It was very lonely," she says. "No one lived nearby. And on my half day off I had to bicycle 18 miles home, and then all the way back again, to be in before 10pm."



POPPERFOTO

Domestic service before the war offered a lonely, spartan existence to maids such as these. The strictest hierarchies and disciplines were observed

But the system which depended on a sharp class divide has changed with the increasing egalitarianism of the post-war years. The word servant in itself is no longer acceptable. Domestic help is a quite different phenomenon now, except perhaps in the very grandest — or the most brashly pretentious — homes. Staff are employed not to do the tasks that the wealthy would once have disdained, but to help out busy professional couples.

"Employers can't afford several people nowadays, nor are they just looking for a skivvy who can scrub," says William Weber, a partner in Mrs Hunt's Agency. "They want one home help with diverse skills. Someone who can cook, book an airline ticket, dash down to Ludgrove to pick up little Johnny, take the dog to the vet — they want someone just like them."

Many of the people whom his agency sends out to such clients as the Royal household will be highly competent professionals. "In the 1960s, when liveried footmen were still hired out to grand London homes," he says, "someone once collapsed. A prominent duchess rushed to the fore. 'Stand back, stand back!' she cried. 'I'm a nurse' [apparently she had done auxiliary nursing during the war]. But one of the hired footmen brushed her aside. 'Actually, I'm a doctor.' he said." He was a medical student earning extra cash on the side.

But when domestic staff are often of the same social status as their employers — several have even got married — one of the things that troubles Mr Weber most is the discourtesy which can be shown. "People can be shockingly rude," he says, and he cites the example of a woman who sat on her balcony and called him from her mobile phone as the Filipina maid whom he had sent round walked up her drive. "I can see her coming from here," the brassy woman cried. "I shan't even bother to open the door. She's a tiny little thing. Far too short to reach up and dust the tops of the paintings."

Some clients are even startlingly impolite to Mr Weber. "I say to them, if you treat me like this, how will you treat the people you want to employ? I refuse to accept them." One home help, Elly Hakak, still feels wounded by a snub from a woman whose house she was cleaning — she walked up and wiped the lipstick from Ms Hakak's face. "Did you think you had come for a cocktail party?" she asked.

Apparently such ill manners were not uncommon even in an earlier age. Mrs Beeton, whose famous *Book of Household Management* became the bible of most Victorian households, opens her chapter on domestic staff with the statement: "It is the custom of Society to abuse its servants."

However, in the modern world, as the manufacturing sector declines, the service industry becomes an increasingly attractive option for work. The guilt or envy that might once have been attached to it are long out of date. And today service can no longer be mistaken for servility.

SERVICE WAGES

MRS Hunt's Agency this summer celebrates 100 years of finding jobs for domestic servants.

The name may not have changed since the day when Ellen Hunt founded her registry in central London, but the wages have certainly risen and the *Upstairs Downstairs* world has long gone.

In 1898, the life of a domestic servant at Mrs Hunt's, which claimed to be the largest agency in the world, was very different. Bottom of the service pecking order was the "tweeny", often as young as 14, who would have to get up at 6am every morning to empty the chamber pots, sweep the carpets on her hands and knees and polish every piece of brass and mahogany in a Victorian middle-class home.

Even if she worked hard and was promoted to under-housemaid, she was unlikely to earn more than £18 a year — less than £1,000 today. If she was lucky, though, she might have earned herself a week's beer money of about one shilling and sixpence.

Now, domestic helpers can earn more than £18 for less than a morning's work. On average, a house which once would have had two full-time live-in housemaids can now be vacuumed and polished in six hours by a lone cleaner who will be earning about £6.50 an hour.

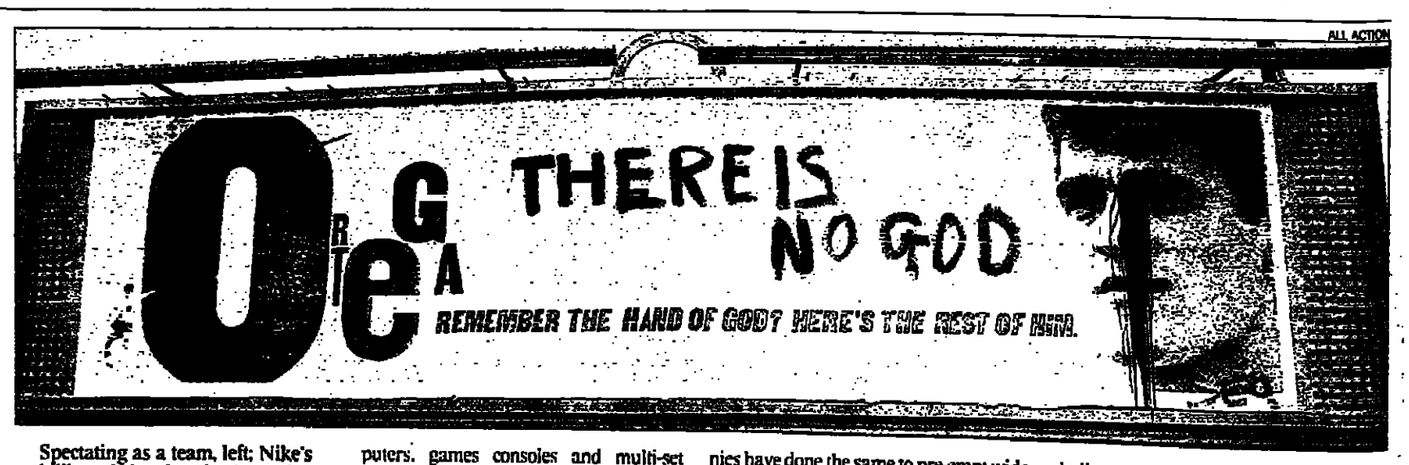
Why we're all playing at home

It's no fantasy, says **Arabella Warner**, watching football really is a family game



Adidas did their best with that poster of David Beckham and the "foot that will make history". Nike had a billboard featuring Ariel Ortega, the Argentine midfield player latterly sent off for head-butting an opponent, displayed in full colour above the legend: "Heard of the hand of God? Here's the rest of him." But the prize for the most ill-judged piece of advertising among the landslide of World Cup-related commercials goes to British Telecom.

It features a woman day-dreaming that the World Cup had been cancelled, a fantasy which culminates in dozens of women celebrating vigorously in the streets. Realising she had simply nodded off and in fact the competition is in full swing, BT's heroine then consoles herself by ringing her best mate, opening her conversation with the words: "yeah, he's watching the football too." Now, if I had taken BT's advice and rung up any woman I know during the course of the game between England and Argentina, I would have received short shrift. Instead of sisterly solidarity and a girlie chat while the other half engaged in pointless male pursuits, I would have been told to get off the phone and ring back after the penalty shoot-out. Not that I would have rung anyway: I was too engrossed in the dramatic to-ings and fro-ings myself.



ALL ACTION

Spectating as a team, left; Nike's billboard showing the Argentine midfielder Ariel Ortega, above

Where BT got it wrong was by not reading the demographic signs. Since Euro '96, the old sexual demarcations around football have been dissipating. Women are joining the party in ever increasing numbers. Far from being the men-only bore of the BT ads, this World Cup has proved, for many of us, a family affair.

In our house, we have gathered round the television together, in the way that very rarely happens in these days of computers, games consoles and multi-set households. In a way that people used to do for royal occasions, several generations have hunkered down together in front of the box with a bag of tortilla chips. For the England v Argentina match, families in our neighbourhood came together to watch, a communal occasion in which the only obvious difference between the sexes was in the reaction to David Beckham, who, according to which camp you were in, should either have been hung for high treason or embraced by a tidal wave of mothering.

It is not only anecdotal evidence that supports the great demographic sweep. Schools have set up television to allow pupils to watch England matches, companies have done the same to pre-empt widescale absenteeism, and, most significantly of all, the television viewing figures have registered all sorts of records.

It is not just the 26 million who tuned in to the England v Argentina match that tell the story. It has also been the low numbers watching BBC2. Bolt-hole for the football agnostic, BBC2 has seen its viewing figures fall through the floor this past month. *The Travel Show*, for instance, which normally pulls in an audience of more than four million, was down to a quarter of that when scheduled against an England game. In family households the figures are more dramatic, with a majority tuning in to the football, suggesting that children have been leading the way during France '98.

All this is great news to the legion of commerical interests who have hitched their flag to football's post this summer. Any mother will tell you that lately life has centred on buying the cereal that gleans the right stickers from the supermarket that offers the correct free World Cup cards and driving there in a car filled with petrol that provides the proper France '98 collectors' coins.

Tomorrow evening, even though England are not in it, statistics suggest we will not be alone in watching the final as a family. I, for one, will be enjoying myself with the most exciting piece of theatre around. And the phone will be off the hook.

هكذا من الأصل

is just beginning

oors

SERVICE WAGE

With yew trees for a backdrop, Jane Seymour paints, relaxes and enjoys family dramatics, finds **Jane Owen**

PAUL ROGERS



Jane Seymour's favourite place at St Catherine's Court, near Bath, is a modest flight of stone steps that looks back along the lawn and beds of roses and box to the old house

Scene of work, rest and plays

ME AND MY GARDEN: JANE SEYMOUR

Jane Seymour's jeans are covered in blood. She has had a nosebleed. She does not normally have nosebleeds but, last night, her two-year-old twins were restless after a transatlantic flight and so she and her two older children settled them by sleeping with the twins in two plastic cars. During the night one of the boys accidentally kicked his mother's nose...

Sisters, mother, offspring and helpers whirl about the vast old house near Bath, tucked away in a hidden valley. Walls are covered with photographs of Ms Seymour in starring roles — Wallis Simpson, Maria Callas — and her watercolours of flowers. And in the large, panelled Elizabethan reception rooms, oddly informal arrangements of roses and pinks are dotted among the heavy oak furniture.

The flowers come from the 12-acre garden which is being restored with mixed borders, ferns, box and masses of roses by a neighbour and Ms Seymour's husband James Keach. "James says that he paints with flowers and I paint flowers," says Ms Seymour, who is tiny and pretty, just as she appears on screen.

Acting is not Ms Seymour's only occupation. She is also an artist (one of her pictures of flowers decorates a limited edition of a Californian wine), a producer, a Unicef representative, occasional teacher to delinquents in Los Angeles, author of children's books, and mother. Her most recent film, *The Marriage of Convenience*, is premiered in Paris this summer, and her children's book series, *This One and That One and the Malibu Cats*, will be published this summer in America.

Her British garden, dotted with yew topiary, sweeps down the side of the valley with the old house perched halfway down a drop of several hundred feet. Old yews line up behind an Elizabethan bowling alley at the back of the house. This is the area which sets the scene for the family's home movies, such as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. It was densely shaded and ideal for forest settings. But, much to the children's disapproval, the yews have been cut back so they will thicken up. For now, air and grass fill the area formerly known as Scary Woods.

These young theatricals echo Ms Seymour's childhood, which was spent in Merton Park, south London, where a washing line, strung across the back garden, became the proscenium arch. Ms Seymour's memory of the garden is that, to her disgust, her parents filled in the swimming pool, on the grounds that it could be dangerous for young children, and turned it into an asparagus bed. "I disliked asparagus as a child, on principle," she says.

When she was ten years old, the young actress moved to Wimbledon, next door to a girl who became one of her closest friends — the novelist Sally Emerson. The garden theatricals burgeoned: Ms Emerson wrote the plays and Ms Seymour starred in them. "People tell me Sally Emerson has written about me in her books, although not by name," says Ms Seymour. Her own children's books are partly autobiographical. One is about Lady Jane cat and her mate and the Terrible Two.

Between them, Ms Seymour and her husband have five children: the twins Kristopher and John, Sean who is aged 12, and Katie, 16, from her marriage to David Flynn, and Mr Keach's son Kalen, 20.

The front of the stone house looks across what was once a fountain garden and is now a lawn with wide, cruciform stone paths and beds of old-fashioned roses, and *Alchemilla mollis*. From here four flights of stone steps, each separated by a wide lawn, nut walk or orchard, reach up towards a Victorian plunge pool, home to dozens of newts.

Edwardian photographs of the garden show a standard contemporary Italianate garden with stone work and columns. Much of that has vanished along with some Elizabethan grass steps that were smoothed over at the beginning of the century and now make a 50m slide. "There is usually a large bit of blue PVC here for people to slide on. The children slide right along the front of the house to the orangery, but grown-ups tend to end up in the side wall."

A new border with fig, roses, geranium, iris, stachys and sempervivum stands in front of a wall speckled with brambles and feverfew, in contrast to the *Magnolia grandiflora* close by at the front of the house.

Ms Seymour's favourite place in this grand landscape is a modest flight of stone steps that looks back along the lawn and beds of roses and box to the house.

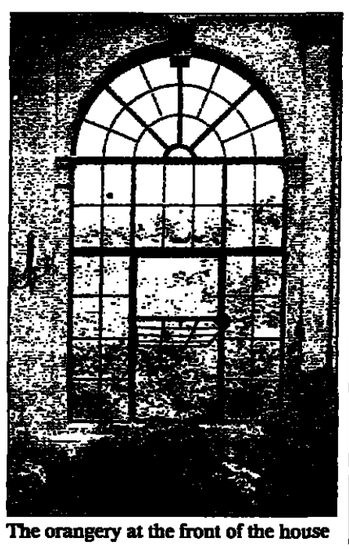
"We have spent millions on this place and we refer to it as 800 years of deferred maintenance. Much of what you see has been funded by rock bands, such as The Cure and Radiohead, that stay here to record and get a little R and R. It is so popular with Americans, too, that there aren't many opportunities for us to stay here. We had to work hard to find this window of ten days," says Ms Seymour, who is taking her first holiday for six years. Day one of the "holiday" is spent talking to *The Times*.



Watercolour of flowers by Ms Seymour



The house is set in 12 acres of garden



The orangery at the front of the house

Out of the blue in Yorkshire

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ **8 Dunstarn Lane**
Adel, Leeds (0113-267 3938). Twenty yards from causeway at ring-road end. 28 and 28a buses from Headingley and Leeds stop near the gate. Opens today exclusively for Times *readers, tomorrow for the Northern Horticultural Society and July 19 and August 9 for the Yellow Book; 2-6pm, adults £1.50, children free. Specialist groups wanting to see the garden can do so by appointment only.*
RICHARD Wainwright, the former Liberal MP, is president of the delphinium society and has a collection of the plant to prove it: 80 named varieties including five new ones. His favourite among these is 'Thamesmead', which is about five foot tall and has a dark luminous blue flower.

Mr Wainwright was brought up in this two-acre garden, which was created in 1937 by his father, Scurrah. It has plenty of phlox varieties, campanulas, some well-stocked herbaceous borders, wigwams of sweet peas, and rose beds. All this is surrounded by a belt of old trees, lawn and rough grass where visitors are welcome to picnic.

"What pleases us most is when people come here with their children and grandchildren and have their picnics in the grassy areas or on the lawn. In 50 years of opening I have never had to pick up more than a few toffee papers after people have been here," says Mr Wainwright, who runs the garden with his wife, Joyce.



Richard Wainwright, the former MP

■ **Swerford Village**
Open village weekend in Swerford, Oxfordshire, four miles northeast of Chipping Norton, from 2-6pm, today and tomorrow, to raise money for the local church bells. Adults £2, children under-16 free, for all the gardens. For more information, call 01608 737273.
FIVE gardens are open and a good plant stall will operate at the Old Rectory, which is currently being worked on by Rupert Golby, the Chelsea Gold medallist responsible for last year's *Country Life* garden. Despite changes in style, the Old Rectory garden retains the charm that Lanning Roper captured when he wrote about it for *Country Life*. "The garden is particularly satisfying with its intimate enclosed areas coupled with long vistas and views of the countryside, its carefully chosen plants and colour schemes. It combines many of the features of a large garden into a compact scheme that can be maintained satisfactorily with one part-time gardener and a busy owner."

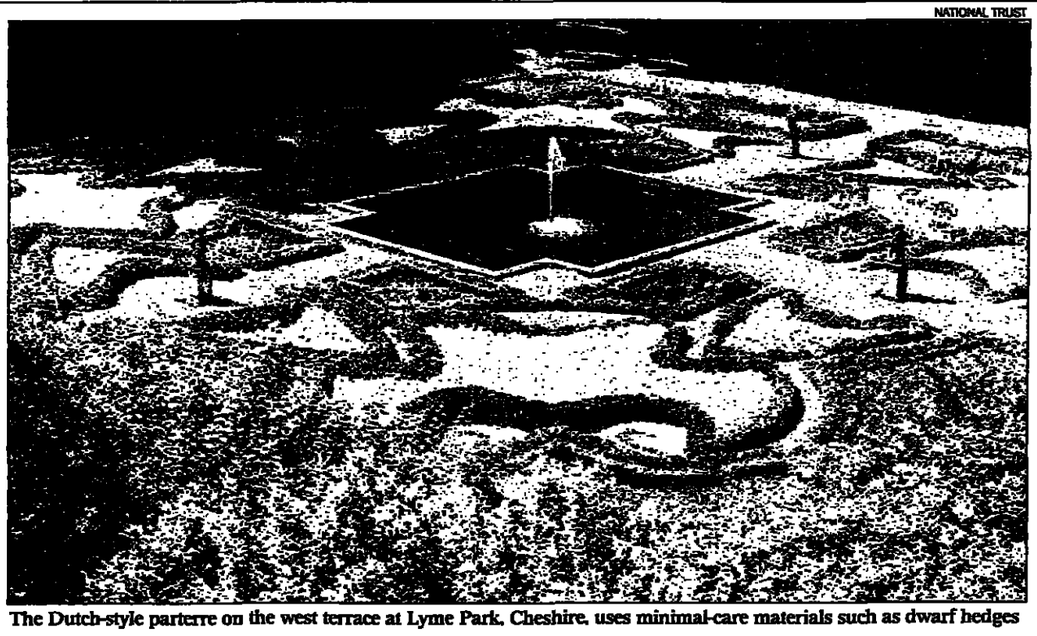
Lands Farmhouse is in the process of being reclaimed. Work is not yet complete, but it is a chance to see a garden in the making — Martin Moore's garden is informal with astilbes and some gunnera. There is a mass of bedding and rose, all immaculately maintained in a stunning position. Landsdowne Cottage, open for the first time, is a typical cottage garden with stunning views.

JANE OWEN

Something to look down on

Parterres are low in maintenance, but high on style, says **Sue Corbett**

NATIONAL TRUST



The Dutch-style parterre on the west terrace at Lyme Park, Cheshire, uses minimal-care materials such as dwarf hedges

Parterre? *Pas de problème!* However they are designed, there will be no ignoring parterres this summer. Out of vogue since the heyday of Victorian carpet bedding, parterres are newly fashionable as many country houses recreate their 17th and 18th-century specimens.

A specially built flowerless parterre in the austere Dutch style even co-stars with Ewan McGregor in a forthcoming feature film, *The Serpent's Kiss*, set in Gloucestershire in 1699. Another parterre, being created for Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, open today and tomorrow, will have two lives as it is to be relocated later as a hospital roof garden.

Why are they suddenly so popular? One reason is that parterres are easily geared to a personal design (the garden designer played by McGregor in the film bases some of his gravel shapes on the broderie anglaise in the dress Greta Scacchi's character is wearing when he first sees her). They are also easy to maintain if you go for Dutch-style minimal-care materials such as coal, shells or dwarf hedges. Cleverly design your parterre and all it needs is occasional weeding.

"It is definitely something for non-gardeners as well as gardeners," says production designer Charles Garrad, who, with art director Chris Lowe, designed the parterre for the film. "Doing this sort of thing is as simple as it looks," he says, "as long as you get the ground flat, and obviously it needs to be drained. Then choose your shapes, mark them out and fill in the areas with whatever coloured materials you fancy."

Part of Mr Garrad's preparation was to inspect some recently recreated parterres. For him, Tredegar House, near Newport, was the most inspirational. "Spectacular. So abstract. Our screenplay demanded something unnatural, and Tredegar made me realise how unnatural a parterre can be. With the sun bouncing off its coal and brickdust, it is as unlike being in a garden as you can imagine," he says.

Archaeology at Tredegar has revealed that its early 18th-century parterre featured contrasting displays of seashells, crushed lime mortar, brickdust, coal dust, grass, and white, yellow and orange sand all arranged in formal patterns, some of them bordered with low-clipped box hedging. Tredegar's owner, Newport Borough Council, has used these discoveries as a basis for its newly made parterre, several of whose features, such as brightly painted battens for edging, Mr Garrad has borrowed for the film.

Also on Mr Garrad's visiting list was Hanbury Hall, near Droitwich, where the National Trust recently created a sunken parterre on the site of an earlier one of about 1700. Neil Cook, the gardener-in-charge, says: "To me, the parterre helps fit the house back into the landscape. Visitors tell me that they love it." He advises anyone making a parterre to prepare their site thoroughly. "Make sure that it's weed-free — my only regret is that we didn't weedkill before we removed the turf that had grown over our original parterre. A lot of weeds came back when we replaced the topsoil six months later. Also, think about drainage. We're on heavy clay here and had to be careful not to create a swimming pool, so we put in a large main drain with a herringbone system off it."

Another problem when making a parterre may be finding classical statues to use as focal points; look around local auctioneers and junk yards for statuary.

Box topiary for Nuffield Hospital's new parterre, displayed at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, is provided by the established firm of Hillier Landscapes of Romney, which is making the garden to an unusual brief from JWP Landscape Architects. "We've had to specify lightness of weight since its destination is as a roof garden above operating theatres," says Jane Mooney, from JWP. "Like any parterre, it will be most impressive viewed from above, and although it is a roof garden, it will be looked down on by patients and staff on higher floors."

Complete with parterre, the Nuffield Hospital, Guildford, opens early next year. Hopefully, other parterres will spring up as a result.

FACT FILE

■ Elizabeth Braimbridge's Langley Boxwood Nursery (01730 894467) supplies dwarf and common box, yew and topiary (either small bushes for do-it-yourself or larger ready-mades).
■ Landscape architects, designers and contractors Hillier Landscapes (01794 368733) can supply bay trees, yew and box topiary and advise on statuary.
■ For ideas, track down *Elizabethan Houses and Gardens in the 17th and 18th Centuries: A Series of Bird's-Eye Views* by Kip, Badeslade, Harris and others (Batsford, 1908, out of print, available through second-hand bookshops).
■ JWP Landscape Architects (0181-224 9936) mainly designs commercial and amenity landscapes, but will also work to private commissions.
■ Haddonstone of East Haddon (01604 770711) produces cast stone urns, statuary, fountains and columns. Catalogues £5.
■ For other suppliers, look under the Sand and Gravel Suppliers and Coal and Solid Fuel Merchants listings in Yellow Pages.
■ The National Trust's Champagne on the Parterre event at Waddesdon Manor, Bucks, is on August 1, 6.30-8.30pm. £25 (01296 651226).
■ The Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, today 10am-7.30pm and tomorrow 10am-5.30pm. Adults £17 (£10 after 3pm), children £5. Includes the British Rose Festival and 25 show gardens. Ticket information 0171-957 4000.

Cool, calm and contemplative

Sue Corbett meets designers who use a few simple rules to create stress-busting gardens



Rose Garrard's *Green Man* which Fiona Hopes used in her "Garden of Reflection"





JOHN GLOVER

John Harvey Simpson and Fiona Lawrenson believe gardens should be easy on the senses. They worked together on the "Private Chapel Garden"

Some gardens are more restful than others, as Fiona Lawrenson, the garden designer, discovered when she was building her "Private Chapel Garden" at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. "My husband said: 'Last year you were really stressed out, and this year I haven't heard a murmur.'"

One factor, she believes, was the relaxing effect of the garden's white-and-green planting. "Colour is an important aid to calm contemplation," she says. "I did the central area mainly in green with a little bit of white. John Harvey Simpson, the artist who worked with me, says green is *the* calming colour. Apparently, it sends the same signals through your retina to the brain that you receive when asleep, which must be why lawns and other greenery are so relaxing."

Others agree. "There was one lady during the show who stood in front of the white-and-green area for about 20 minutes. I noticed her and asked if she was all right. She said she'd had the most terrible six months and standing there had helped her focus on everything — she'd been able to shut down and relax.

"I found the scents de-stressing, too," says Ms Lawrenson. "They were the best I could remember at Chelsea. The warmth brought everything out and, because it was an enclosed garden, the wind didn't carry it away. I didn't want any modern roses. I used old-fashioned ones for their scents, such as 'Charles de Mills', 'L D Braithwaite', 'La Reine Victoria' and 'Margaret Merril'. But the irises, too, smelt amazing — 'Deep Black', 'Jane Phillips', 'Snow Queen', 'Tropic Night' and 'White City'. And the perfume of the *Phlox paniculata* was heavenly."

The soft, distressed look of Mr Simpson's work on the garden walls and chapel detail fitted in well with her overall aim. "The curving lines of the art nouveau chapel meant that the whole thing flowed, and when something flows and curves, it helps relaxation," she says.

This summer, the green and off-white that lend an air of calm to every country churchyard feature at Blickling Hall, near Norwich, where 54 headstones, sundials and other memorials form an exhibition, "The Art of Remembering: Memorials Today, the Headstone and Beyond", set in 70 acres of gardens.

"Be still and know that I am God," reads the inscription on a design by Jon Gibbs in pale stone, that he likes to think "would enhance a garden, and perhaps act as a focal point for a family's fond memories". The same could be said of many of the other exhibits, which have been brought together by Memorials by Artists, an organisation which promotes fine craftsmanship in stone and other materials.

Fiona Hopes, a garden designer, also opted for green and white for her "Garden of Reflection" at this year's Malvern Spring Gardening Show. "White and silver in the middle, from euonymus and convolvulus, with dark evergreens at the edges, give a very calming effect," she says. "I did include a water feature, but even more restful was Rose Garrard's sculpture, *Green Man*."

The contemplative garden can even surmount surface noise, as Barbara Clark of the Quiet Garden Trust has found with her small garden in Windsor, which has to contend with the Heathrow flightpath. "Many people say they love this garden as it's so green and peaceful," says Dr Clark. "One woman who leads a very hectic life gets tremendous pleasure from it."

The experience of Sir Roy Strong is similar. "The garden is one of the things that saw me through my darkest hour. Other people might want to walk into the National Gallery and stand in front of a painting, but I would gladly have travelled three hours from London to stand and look for ten minutes at my garden on the Herefordshire/Wales border. That's how much it means to me. I love the sense of being contained within something of your own creation — such a personal expression of yourself.

"The whole garden is filled with memory — it's a kind of tapestry, with everyone and everything you've loved most in your life woven into it."

● *Floribunda, Fiona Lawrenson's garden design consultancy: 01428 651776. Song of the Earth: Gardens by Fiona Hopes: 01684 892533. Rose Garrard: 01684 569109. Memorials by Artists: 01728 688934. "The Art of Remembering: Memorials Today, the Headstone and Beyond" is at Blickling Hall, Norwich, until November 1 (01263 733084).*



STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS



RICHARD ALLEN

Q Among the new plants in our garden are several *Helleborus lividus corsicus*. They would bloom magnificently from November to May, and set lots of seed. However, they are now turning brown and leggy. How do we care for them? — *W. Naylor, Maidenhead, Berks.*

A *Helleborus argutifolius*, previously known as *H. lividus ssp. corsicus*, makes a clump of strong stems during the summer once the plant is well established. Then these stems flower in the ensuing winter, and drop seed the following summer while the new season's stems are rising. Unless you want seedlings, the old stems can be cut out at ground level in late spring once the flowers have begun to brown. It makes space for the new stems to develop into a better shaped clump. The plant self-seeds generously, so even one stem left will give you some seedlings to follow.

Helleborus lividus is similar to *H. argutifolius* but smaller and rarer. Whereas the woodier stems on *H. argutifolius* are virtually biennial, the Christmas rose *Helleborus niger* and the Lenten rose *Helleborus orientalis* make their leaves and softer flower stems annually from the base.

Some of the best *Helleborus corsicus* specimens are grown in full light and on poor stony soil.

Q I would dearly love to grow a *Ginkgo biloba* tree in my garden, but do not have space except in a pot. Could you give me advice on which variety to buy and from where, what size pot to use, and what kind of compost? — *M. Wershof, Loughton, Essex.*



A Ginkgos can be infuriatingly slow trees in their early years, and you may find that you do have enough space for one in the ground. Ten feet or less in the first ten years is not unusual. Ginkgos also make splendid trees against a wall, and can be trained to keep them tightly vertical.

You can buy any old ginkgo from a garden centre. All you gain from a more expensive variety is narrowness of crown and, in most cases, masculinity. Female ginkgos, such as 'King of the Dongting Mountains', have vile-smelling fruits. The Chinese call them "silver apricots" and eat the kernels. Leaf shape also varies. 'King of the Dongting Mountains' has a beautifully fat undivided leaf. The male 'Saratoga' has narrow foliage with at least two lobes to the leaf. Special varietiescan be bought from Bluebell Nursery, Ashby de la Zouche (01530 413700).

Grow your ginkgo in not too large a pot, and pot it on each year, using a general purpose compost. Feed midseason, but not after July, so that the new growth is not soft but properly ripened before the frosts.

● *Write to Garden Answers, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.*

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هكذا من الأصل

Artificial colours in the garden can look perfectly natural if used boldly, says **Stephen Anderton**

ANDREW LAWSON



A striking set of metal garden furniture, painted bright blue, contrasts with the natural foliage

Flowers are not the only colour



What colour would you paint a garden bench or a picket fence? White? Orange? Purple? Turquoise and gold?

Get it right and artificial colours in a garden can look deliciously striking. Get it wrong, and they can look quite, quite horrible. All a matter of taste? Each to his own? Maybe; but there are a few observations to be made which might fend off brave, but embarrassing, *faux pas*.

Some gardeners evade the issue of colour by having garden furniture in plain wood, or in those neutral colours, black or white. They work well enough. They are discreet and simple. As with metal railings and little dresses, you can never go wrong with black. A formal bench with a great deal of fine detailing will stand out most clearly in white, whether it is a cast aluminium Coalbrookdale replica or a real Chippendale.

Currently, a good deal of metal garden furniture is being finished in a dense grey paint not unlike the colour of bare steel. On lightly made wire-work chairs and tables, grey is softer on the eye than black, and looks far less fussy than white. Grey chairs blend away into their surroundings very quietly, in long grass perhaps, under an apple tree.

But it is still avoiding the issue. Is discretion the better part of pallor? What about strong colours? Everyone thinks the easiest colour in a garden is green. Think of all those Edwardian folding chairs in bottle green. I am not so sure. Certainly bright green is the easiest colour with which to shout "artificial". Among so many natural greens, all but the blackest green paints look conspicuously artificial. In winter more than ever, bright or pale greens stand out vividly and look decidedly odd.

How about blue then? Curiously, blue works rather well. Slate blues may be terribly National Trust but they do look dignified in natural surroundings, despite their artificiality. Smoky powder blues show more daring, in a feminine, New England sort of way.

It's not just the colour, but the texture that makes these blues look happy in a garden. While you might paint a front door in a rich, navy-blue gloss, in garden furniture a matt finish of the same colour would be far more acceptable. A matt finish contrasts so much less with its natural surroundings.

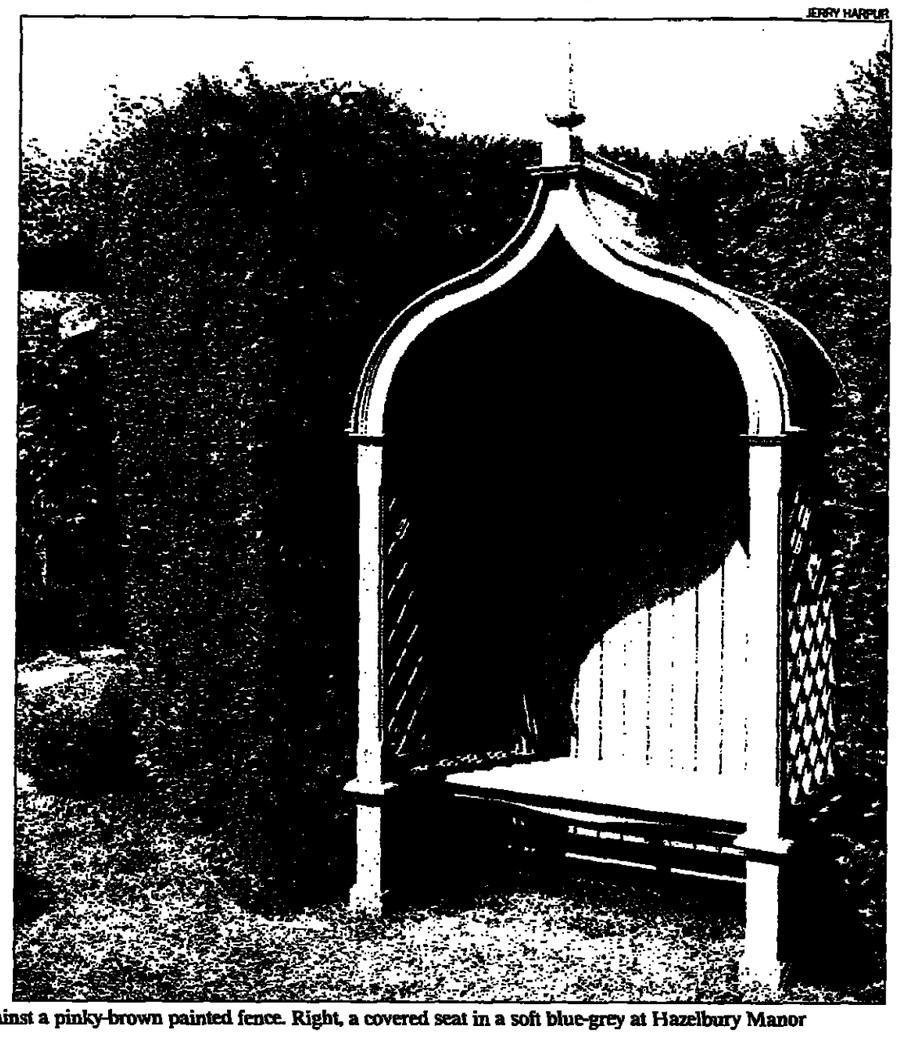
More often people choose a particular shade of their favourite colour which will sit quietly in a garden. Consider those slate or lavender blues, or jades; when you see them in gardens they are usually tones in which a pure, bright colour has been tempered with white, as if faded. White relaxes the intensity of the colour. Green turns to aquamarine, and dark blue to slate.

Working from that principle, you can, then, choose a colour that actually does something for the garden, something that works with it, rather than simply being discreet. Recently I saw a demonstration garden laid out by *Gardening from Which?* at Capel Manor, Enfield. It had brick paths surrounded by a gated picket fence. The fence was a most extraordinary shade of pinky beige. It was as if someone had mixed pots of orange, pink and white. Does it sound ghastly? It worked brilliantly. It looked really good with purple drumsticks of allium heads, and made an attractive and economical harmony with the colour of the brick paths.

Boldness wins the day. In Lanarkshire, Iain Hamilton Findlay's raspberries are supported by *stakes painted in military camouflage pattern* — in shades of bright raspberry and battleship green. But a raspberry bench? A primrose-yellow fence? Van Gogh would not have minded a yellow fence.

All things can be made to work if you find just the right shade of colour, and can provide a reason, an excuse for being so bold; if you can make the colour contribute significantly to its surrounding scene. Maybe in the middle of a suburban garden lawn a raspberry bench is over the top. But in more contrived circumstances, perhaps in an all-white garden, a raspberry bench in an arched arbour, with a ceiling painted raspberry fading to wine and midnight violet, and studded with gold stars. . .?

JERRY HARPUR



Left, pink roses grow against a pinky-brown painted fence. Right, a covered seat in a soft blue-grey at Hazelbury Manor



Rosa 'American Pillar' on a blue gate

> 'Slate blues may be terribly National Trust but they do look dignified; powder blues show more daring'

WEEKEND TIPS

- Take 2in tip cuttings, under polythene, of shrubs such as weigela, potentilla and philadelphus. Dip the cutting in a spray-strength solution of fungicide before dipping the wound in rooting hormone powder.
- Spring-sown new lawns will now be strong enough for weedkillers, if required.
- Dead-head and prune old-fashioned and shrub roses, shortening back flowered shoots to a healthy bud or side shoot.
- Watch for the gingery spotting of rust on roses, mahonias and hypericums, and spray with fungicide. To prolong their season, keep thirsty perennials well watered in dry weather.
- Congested lumps of bearded irises, of four-years-old or more, can be divided. Replant only the fattest rhizomes, 9in apart, just on the surface, facing south to catch the sun.
- Cut out the old flowered stems of *Euphorbia robbiae* at ground level when the flowers have faded.
- Prune apples and pears, taking back new 9in sideshoots to three to four leaves, and sideshoots on fruiting spurs to one leaf.
- Stop cucumbers at desired height; stop fruiting side growths after a second leaf.

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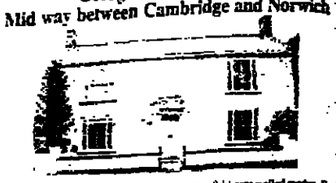
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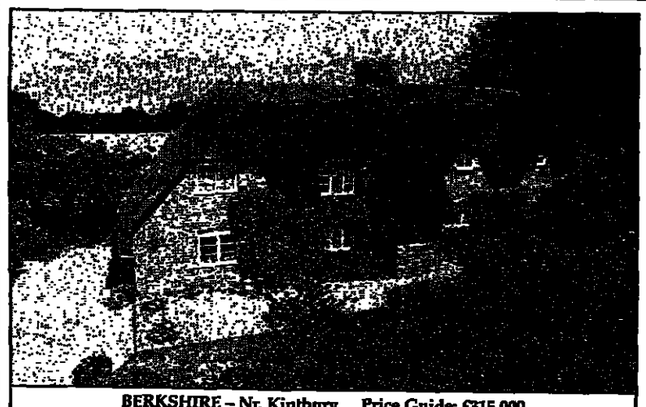
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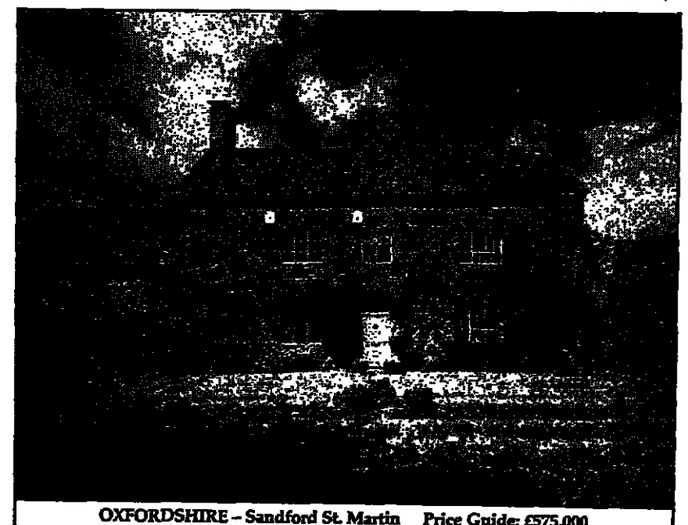
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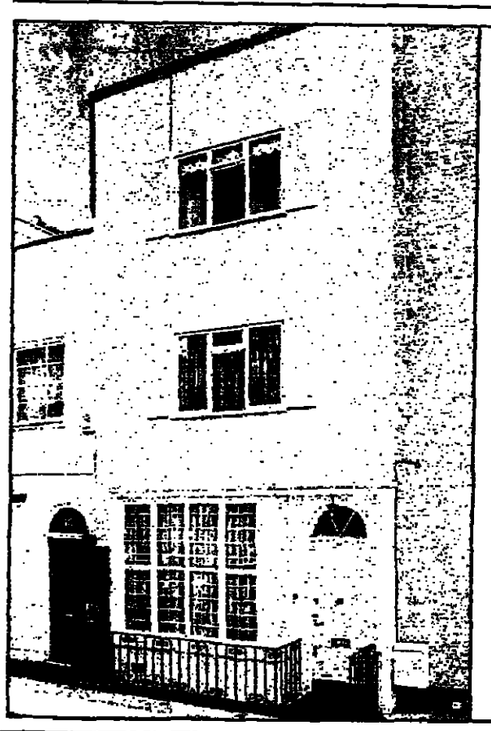
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An attractive house on two floors, requiring modernisation, with a mature and private south-facing garden. 5 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, 2 garages and off-street parking.
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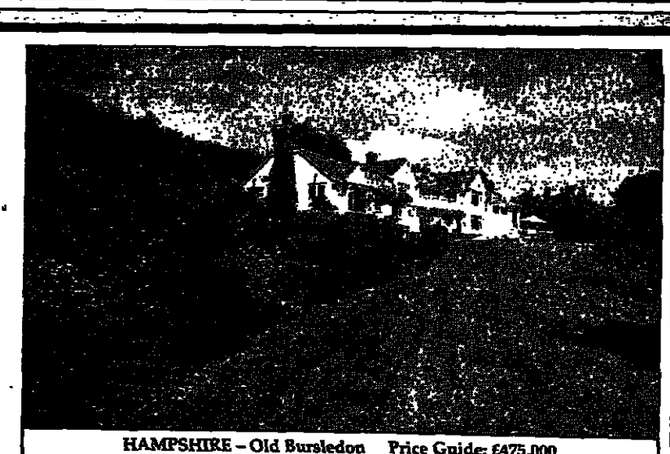
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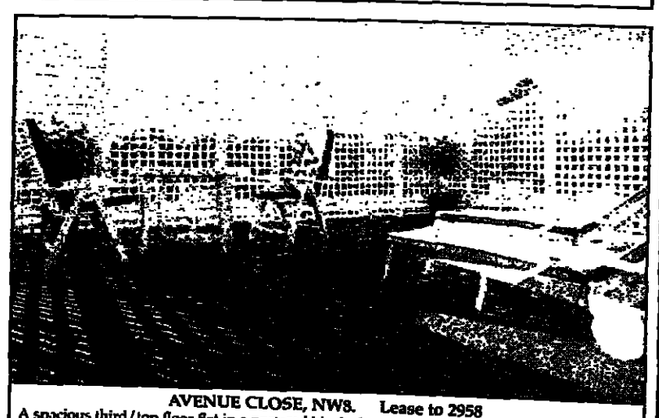
OXFORDSHIRE – Sandford St. Martin Price Guide: £575,000
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CHELSEA OFFICE: 0171 352 1484



HAMPSHIRE – Old Bursledon Price Guide: £475,000
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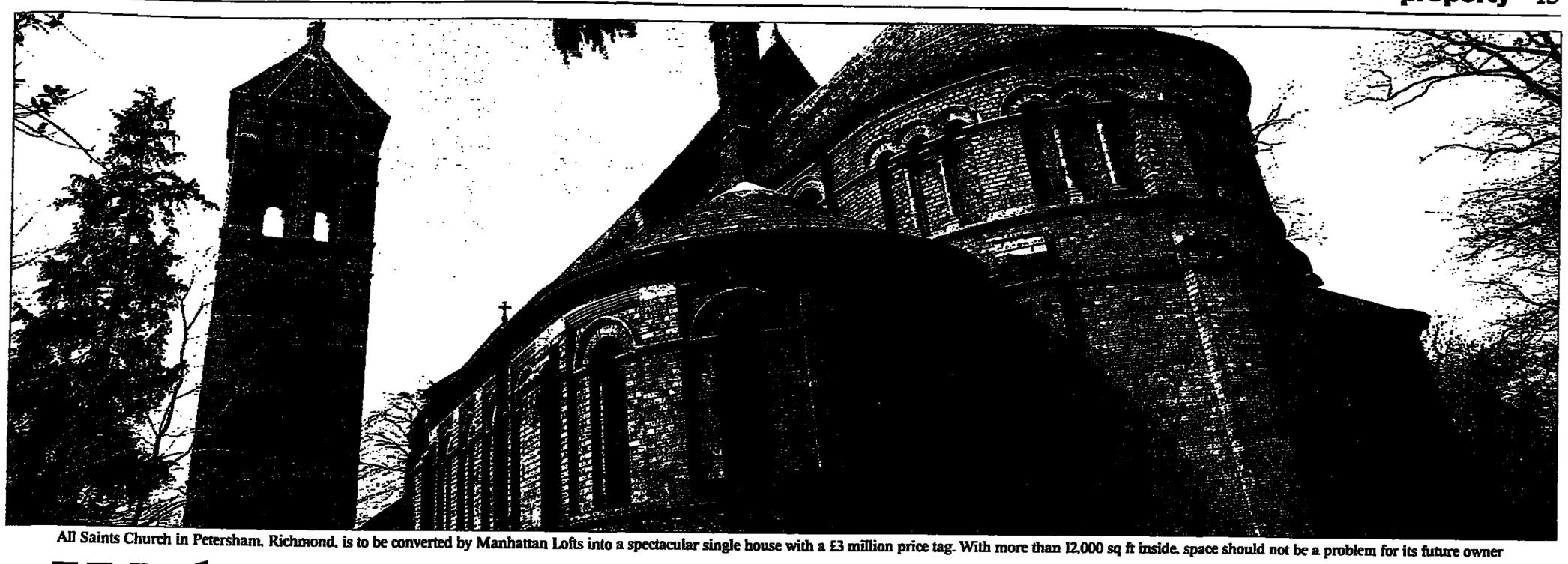
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All Saints Church in Petersham, Richmond, is to be converted by Manhattan Lofts into a spectacular single house with a £3 million price tag. With more than 12,000 sq ft inside, space should not be a problem for its future owner

Welcome to the rooms with a pew

Marcus Binney applauds a daring plan to convert an Edwardian church into a single, and very large, house



MARTIN BEDDALL

A font supported by four angels (left) is one of the church's many original features. John Hitchcock (right), of Manhattan Lofts, sits in his biggest single project to date

Petersham is as near as London gets to an idyllic country village, filled from end to end with ravishing Charles II and Queen Anne red-brick houses. Now Manhattan Lofts is proposing to add to them by converting a huge Edwardian Grade II listed church, All Saints, into a most unusual 12,000 sq ft house.

To appreciate the magnificence of All Saints' situation, you need to climb to the top of its lofty bell tower. On every side there are trees as far as you can see. To the north is Richmond Hill, with its cresting of elegant Georgian houses and Lutyens's Star and Garter Hospital rising nobly through the tree canopy.

To the east is the beginning of the vast expanse of Richmond deer park; to the south there is Richmond golf course and beyond it Ham Common; to the west are Petersham Meadows and the park of Marble Hill. The capital has no leafier 360-degree panorama.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



Immediately below, most of Petersham is lost in large verdant gardens and the only houses really in view are the large Victorian rectory and its 1980s replacement — an extraordinary classical bungalow built in red brick to match the church.

All Saints is approached along the quiet road leading to the golf club and then up a narrow, tree-lined lane, just beyond an Edwardian community hall designed to look like a temple in a park.

Earlier this century, a wealthy parishioner, Mrs Loeticia Warde, embarked on a lavish new church for Petersham. The eccentric clergyman at the time, addicted to long holidays in Venice, apparently encouraged the building of a large Italianate basilica.

The new church was opposed by King Edward VII, no less, who used to stay nearby, as the tower spoilt his view. The bishop of the time later refused to consecrate the church. For those who might have qualms about living on holy ground this may come as a relief because the churchyard was consequently never used for burials.

All Saints was built in 1907-8 to the designs of John Kelly, an architect who worked in the office of George Edmund Street (designer of the Strand Law Courts). Kelly specialised in building Catholic churches, among them St Patrick, Soho, and Our Lady, Chiswick.

The church was built on the basilica plan favoured by the early Christians, with aisles and clerestory windows above and a rounded apse. While most of Kelly's basilican churches were not expensive to build, Mrs Warde insisted on a handsome narthex (an entrance vestibule), a triple apse with side chapels, an ample crypt and a remarkable octagonal baptistery.

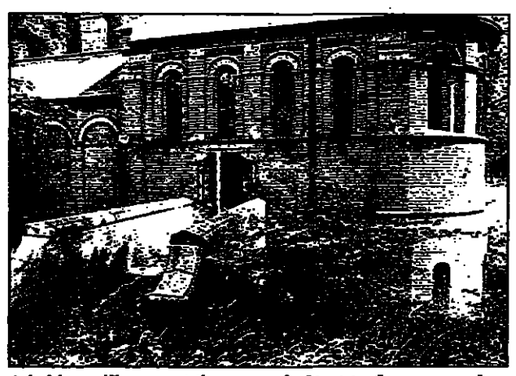
Inside, this contains an almost free-standing tempietto, resting on slender marble columns. Twin staircases lead down to a baptismal pool. Its obvious, if rather irreverent, use today would be as a bath where the new owner could relax beneath a gold-spangled dome.

Above the bath, ceremonial twin staircases lead up to a more traditional font, resting on the kneeling figures of angels representing Faith (with her cross), Hope (with an anchor) and Charity (clasping a bleeding heart). Other main features in the chancel include a vast carved reredos, choir stools and marble chancel screens. The terracotta detail of features such as the Byzantine "cushion" capitals are wonderfully crisp and intricate. Most of the stone carving is by a sculptor from Carrara, Italy, called Nicoli.

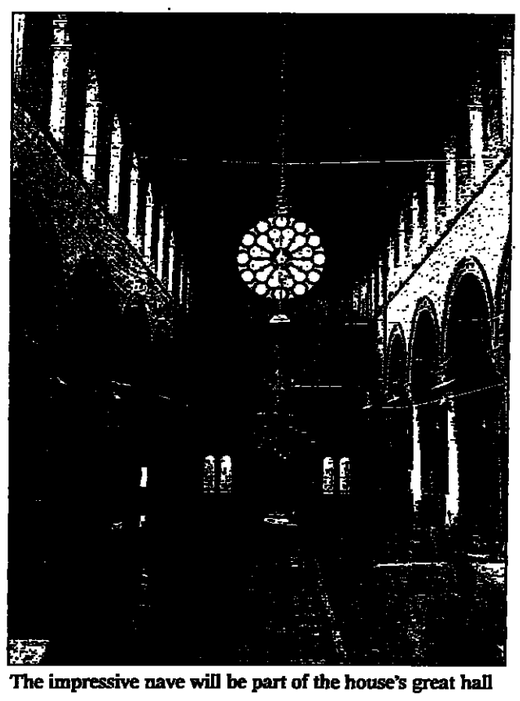
All Saints was a well-kept, if little used, church until the army requisitioned the building in 1941. It was damaged by bombing and stood empty for several years until the diocese spent £20,000 on repairs.

All Saints was never consecrated, so it escaped the Church of England's usual redundancy procedures. Instead, the conversion plans have been negotiated between English Heritage, the London Borough of Richmond and Manhattan Lofts.

Because All Saints is in a secluded residential area and has limited access, it is unsuitable for use as a theatre or concert hall or even as flats. Manhattan Lofts has therefore drawn up a plan for it to become a single house, respecting the lofty proportions of the interior, but introducing a building within a building in front of the chancel.



A bridge will connect the apse windows to the rear garden



The impressive nave will be part of the house's great hall

Stephen Ibbotson, the architect, explains: "The idea is to do this in a very simple, clean and modern way. The new pieces will be separate from the existing structure, like Meccano.

"People won't want to live in a massive space all the time. As the church is situated quite low, the bedrooms will be at higher levels where you can enjoy views over the park."

The work will be done in authentic materials; steel, hardwood and glass. Where solid walls are needed, Mr Ibbotson will use simple plaster finishes.

The domestic accommodation will be concentrated at the east end, using a door into a side chapel. From here you can descend to the crypt, where Mr Ibbotson intends to create a games room and two bedrooms. His "Meccano" structure provides a living room at ground level, kitchen-cum-breakfast room above and master bedroom at the top. The west end of the nave will become a great hall open to the archwood roof, while the choir will be a dining room connected by a new flight of steps to the kitchen.

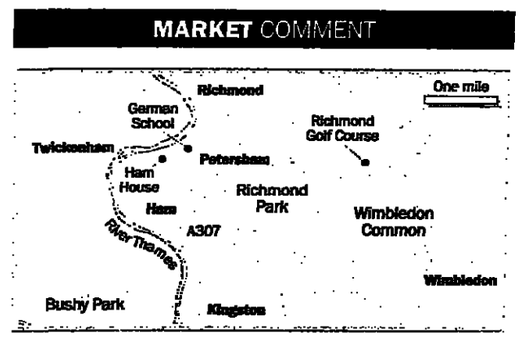
Manhattan Lofts is asking £3 million for All Saints. The conversion is well-suited to a budding Conran or Saatchi, but much of the beauty of the church lies in the contents, such as the hanging rood by Oscar Swink, the Oberammergaucarver, and the reredos by Boulton of Cheltenham.

The ideal purchaser might be an interior decorator or collector (particularly of religious art) who could incorporate some of the major fittings which could be left on loan or controlled as fixtures in a listed building.

Congratulations are in order to Manhattan Lofts and its architect for having the vision to see how a church of this size could become a spectacular house; if they succeed, hope will bloom for other splendid but ailing churches.

● *Details from Knight Frank 0171-824 8171 and Hamptons 0181-940 2772.*

MARKET COMMENT



PETERSHAM, for those who can afford it, offers one of the greenest, most rural outlooks within the M25. Bordered by the Thames to the west and Richmond Park to the east, it lies midway between the two highly desirable enclaves of Richmond and Kingston, and enjoys similar exclusivity. That has been reflected in price rises as high as 50 per cent in the past two years, according to Philip Stevens of Hamptons International.

There is no direct connection to either overland or Underground train services for the ten-mile haul into central London: commuters have a choice of BR lines from Richmond and Kingston, which take about 20-25 minutes, or the Underground District line from Richmond. There is also a good link for Canary Wharf via north London using the north orbital line.

However, as Tony D'Alton at Knight Frank says, "Petersham is designed for people who don't necessarily take the train." Tommy Steele and the late Sir James Goldsmith, both Petersham residents in their time, certainly fall into that category, and they are by no means alone. There is also a strong German contingent, drawn to the area by the German School in the grounds of the National Trust's Ham House.

Petersham's appeal extends beyond the proximity of Richmond Park. It's a good place for those of an equestrian bent, with Ham Polo Club nearby and several stables in the area, too; golfers have Richmond Golf Club to aspire to.

Petersham is effectively a ribbon development of handsome Grade II-listed Georgian and Regency houses, with prices for a four-bedroom family house in reasonable condition starting at about £500,000. Many houses are over £1 million — Tommy Steele's house is on the market at £7.5 million, but there are two-up, two-down cottages for about £200,000.

FAITH GLASGOW

SMART MOVES

THE MILL, Witchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, that was the setting for an illustrated version of the children's book *The Wind in the Willows*, and is said to have inspired Jerome K Jerome, author of *Three Men in a Boat*, is on sale at £1.25 million through the agents Lane Fox.



Michael Flatley

MICHAEL FLATLEY, the dancer and former *Riverdance* star, has bought a £4.5 million mansion in Little Venice.

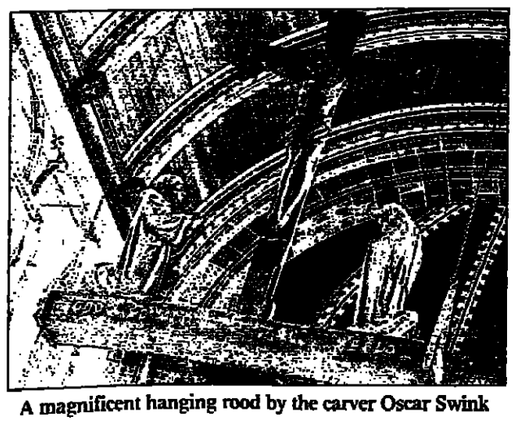
The house, in Park Place Villas, was once considered as a north London base by Madonna but rejected in spite of its large swimming pool.



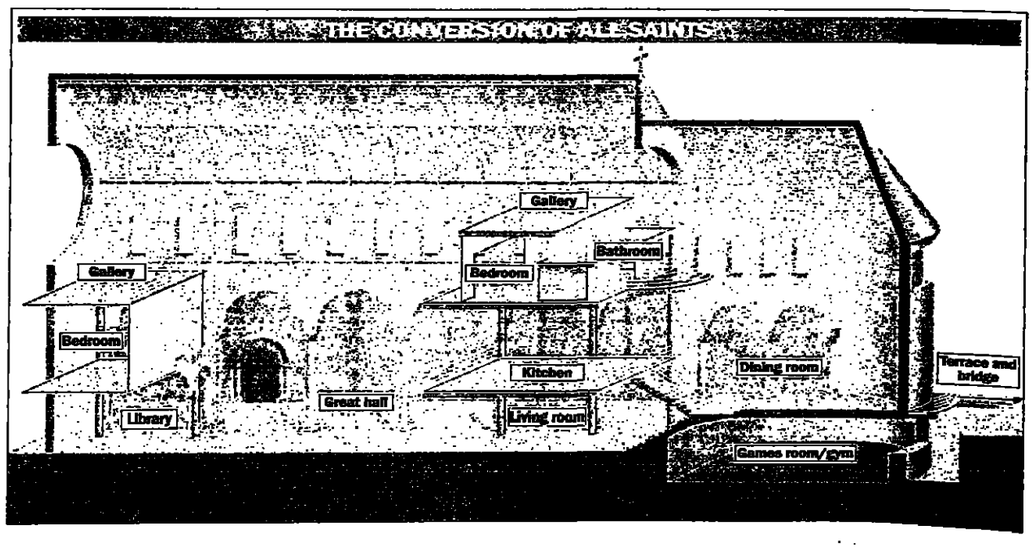
Martina Navratilova

A 125-ACRE estate near Aspen, Colorado, once home to Martina Navratilova, is for sale. The property, on the market for £4.7 million, was bought in 1989 for £780,000. It was awarded to Ms Navratilova's former partner, Judy Nelson, in 1992, after they split.

RACHEL KELLY

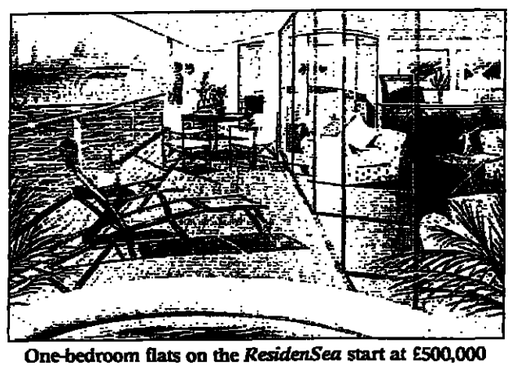


A magnificent hanging rood by the carver Oscar Swink

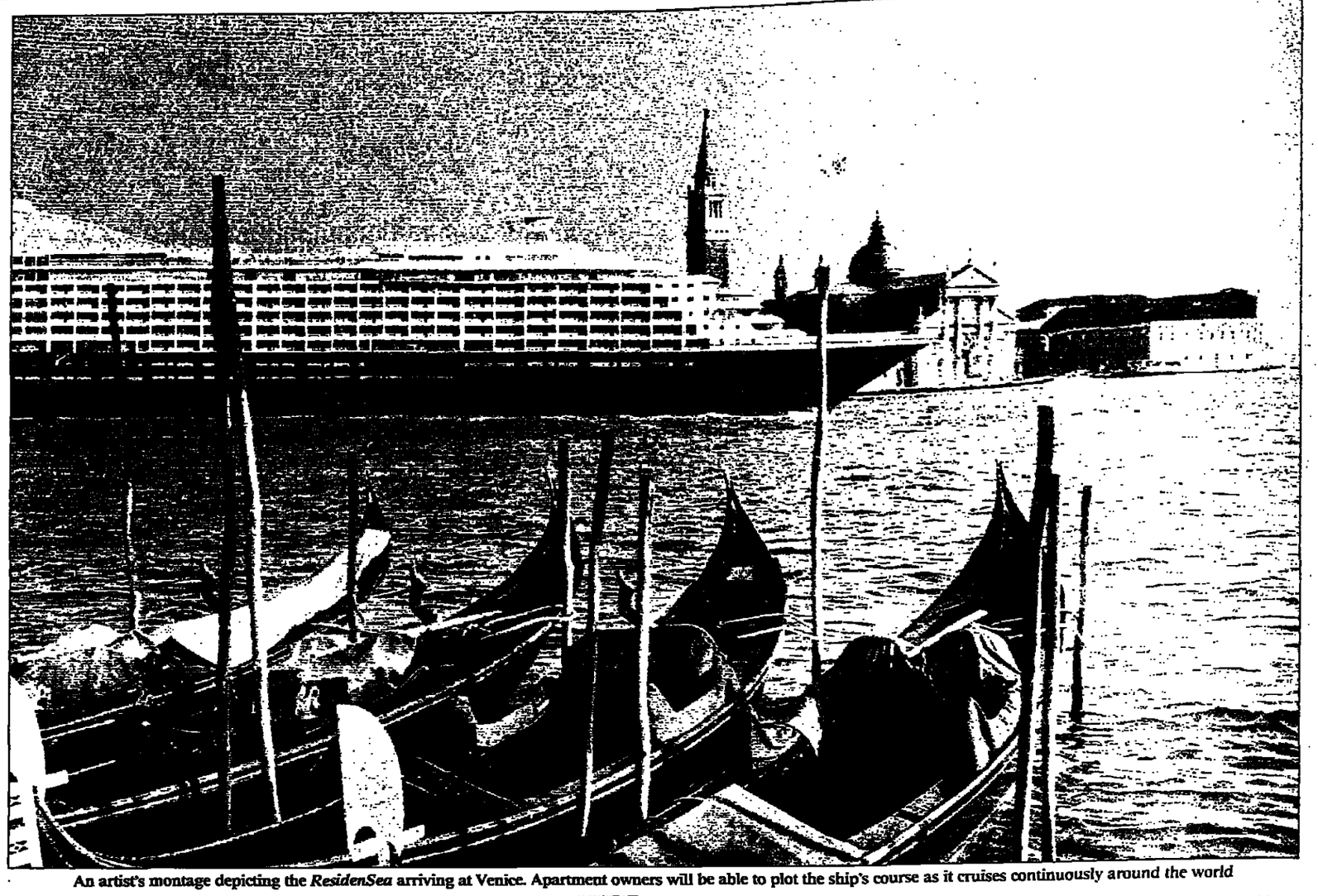


At home on the ocean wave

Permanent homes on the largest ship ever built are on sale, **Robert Verkaik** reports



One-bedroom flats on the *ResidenSea* start at £500,000



An artist's montage depicting the *ResidenSea* arriving at Venice. Apartment owners will be able to plot the ship's course as it cruises continuously around the world

The ultimate fashionable address may no longer be a mews flat in Belgravia, but a suite of rooms aboard a ship that sails continuously around the world.

The well-off British, who have a deep affection for luxury cruise liners, are proving a rich vein of business for two companies with plans to build superliners for ocean-going communities.

The *Freedom Ship*, an American concept, will be the largest vessel ever built, accommodating 40,000 permanent residents in 17,000 homes.

The *World of ResidenSea*, a Norwegian-sponsored project, is a more modest affair, offering just 246 apartments but already scheduled to make its maiden voyage in 2001. Charles Weston-Baker of FPD Savills, the estate agents selling the *ResidenSea* homes in this country, says several of those who have already booked their passage are among the *Sunday Times*'s 1,000 richest names.

Keen to stress the exclusivity of the venture Mr Weston-Baker says every one of the 65 paid-up purchasers has been very carefully vetted. He adds: "We haven't seen many rich widows yet. The profile is much more like a very upmarket golf resort."

The owners of the *Freedom Ship*, which is being marketed as a floating tax haven, are targeting a wider audience. While one-bedroom flats aboard the *ResidenSea* start at £500,000, a mere £70,000 buys you a studio flat in the bowels of the *Freedom Ship*.

Peter Beckwith, the father of Tamara, the Chelsea socialite and "It" girl, has been bitten by the home-cruising bug. He has put down a deposit on a £1-million two-bedroom apartment on the *ResidenSea*. For his money he gets two bathrooms, a Jacuzzi, a choice of carpets and crockery, and a fully stocked bar.

Mr Beckwith, who owns a number of top-class sports clubs, including the Chelsea gym frequented by Diana, Princess of Wales, started out with the vague idea he would like to own a boat in which to sail around the world. *ResidenSea* offered him all the pleasures of being on board a luxury craft with none of the bother of sailing it. Indeed, the owners of both the *ResidenSea* and the *Freedom Ship* promise to cruise continuously around the world, only stopping to anchor at the most fashionable ports.

ALAN WELLER



Peter Beckwith has put a deposit down on a £1 million two-bedroom floating apartment

Explains Mr Beckwith: "It will have all the facilities that a rich man would want to have on board, yet you will be sharing the costs with like-minded people."

Businesswoman Margaret Bloomfield, the managing director of a health and beauty company, Health of the Nation, has opted for an apartment on the mile-long, 25-storey *Freedom Ship*. The ship, when completed, will have the amenities of a small town and dwarf an aircraft carrier. In fact, it will operate its own on-board airport and marina with a fleet of aircraft and hydrofoils ferrying residents from ship to shore.

Inside the ship there will be schools, a hospital, factories, parks and, for those who fancy a spending spree, the largest duty-free shopping centre in the world.

But for Ms Bloomfield, it was not the tax-free element of the project that first attracted her. "I liked the idea of circumnavigating the world. I live over a boat yard and I need to live on or near the water."

With a string of previous addresses in the south of England that include Tower Bridge, Chelsea Harbour, Henley-on-Thames, and her current house overlooking a Thames marina, Ms Bloomfield says *Freedom Ship* represents a "logical progression".

So far she has only paid a holding deposit of around £3,000 for a unit comprising her apartment and an on-board clinic from which she plans to cater for the natural health needs of the *Freedom*'s residents. The final package will cost about £350,000 — the same as a four-bedroom cottage located in one of the traditional and much sought-after villages near Ms Bloomfield's Berkshire home.

For those who can't afford these prices, which do not include annual running costs of around 5 per cent of the purchase, the *Freedom Ship* also offers time-share deals.

Whatever you pay for your berth, everyone will be expected to abide by the same set of rules. The *Freedom Ship* and *ResidenSea* will mainly follow those laws that govern cruise liners — no drugs, no guns and no pets. The owners of the *Freedom Ship* stress that its floating population of 115,000 residents, guests and staff is not an attempt to create a new country, nor will there be an on-board government.

ResidenSea apartment owners will have more of a say on the running of their ship. An elected council of residents, similar to a residents' committee of a luxury block of flats, will be able to force the sale of properties belonging to disruptive residents.

Council members, by the use of a simple majority vote, will also be able to plot the ship's course. In the event of a hung vote or a serious disagreement, the captain will have the deciding say.

The launch of both ships is still a long way off. *ResidenSea* has only just signed a shipbuilding contract while the backers of the *Freedom Ship* are still negotiating theirs.

Not everybody is convinced that having a luxury ship as a home address is such a fashionable idea. Says Mr Beckwith: "My daughter, Tamara, thinks it's her father's mid-life crisis and the ship is going to be just another cruise liner for a load of geriatrics."

● *Estate agents: Freedom Ship, Healas Wolf on 01932 580088; World of ResidenSea, Charles Weston-Baker at FPD Savills on 0171-591 5700.*

HOME SWAP

VICTORIAN terraced houses in London's Stoke Newington have almost doubled in value over the past three years, such has been the demand from young media and City folk. The market has levelled off, says estate agent Holden Matthews, but there's little left for under £160,000, which buys a two-bedroom house in the centre. Expect to pay £200,000 for a three-bedroom house; £250,000 to £340,000 for four to five bedrooms.

A shortage of period houses in Shropshire is bolstering property values. The area around Ludlow is popular and terraced village houses fetch from £70,000 for two bedrooms. Half-timbered detached period cottages, with three to four bedrooms, start at £150,000. Victorian farmhouses with up to five acres cost from £250,000 to £350,000, according to Lane Fox.

Thomas Hardy country, around Dorchester, west Dorset, remains a popular haunt with second-home buyers. With improved communications and more people working from home, there is greater demand from London buyers looking for family homes. Country cottage start at £130,000; farmhouses with pony paddocks cost from £250,000, despite price gains of 15 per cent in the past year, says Jackson-Stops & Staff.



This two-bedroom Victorian terraced house, with a rear garden, is in Oldfield Road, Stoke Newington, northeast London (Holden Matthews, 0171-254 1066).



Orchard Cottage, a charming three-bedroom detached cottage in the popular Dorset village of Child Okeford, has an orchard and a period outbuilding that would convert to a studio/office (Humberts, 01258 452343).



Hill Top Cottage, a restored detached half-timbered cottage near Ludlow, Shropshire, comes with a large garden, outbuildings and panoramic views (Bill Jackson, 01568 610600). CHERYL TAYLOR

Can sage advice sell your house?

Sandra Hempel on homeowners using Native American rituals to 'purify' their space

CHRISTOPHER BARKER



Howard Malpas plays the flute in a 'smudging' ceremony to free 'trapped energy'

Who needs feng shui, and all that shoving the bed around the room? There is an even trendier way of making your house happy: smudging, a Native American purification ritual, so named because a bunch of burning sage plays a central role in the ceremony. We know smudging is trendy because some estate agents in New York are already using it as a selling point. And the fad has now arrived in Britain.

When Alison Riley's estate agent suggested she have her three-bedroom house in south London smudged, she did not know whether to laugh or have a nervous breakdown. "I thought estate agents must be really plumbing the depths if they'd resort to this," she says.

But at the time she was ready to try anything. Mrs Riley and her partner Nick were getting married and buying a house in Shropshire. Mrs Riley had put her home on the market in the hope of a quick sale but soon became desperate. "The house went on the market in January and there it stayed for four months," she says. "Thirty lots of people came to look at it. In all that time, I had just one offer and that fell through after a couple of days."

The estate agent, Robert Tray of Kinleigh, Folkard and Haywood, was surprised because the Edwardian house was well decorated: there was no obvious reason for it failing to sell. Nor was the feedback from prospective buyers much help. Some didn't like the road, some didn't like the way the kitchen was situated and some, most frustrating of all, said the house "just didn't feel right".

"I then went into a state of absolute panic," Mrs Riley says. "We completed on the new house and had to take out a bridging loan."

It was at this point that Mrs Riley decided to accept Mr Tray's advice and call in Howard Malpas. Mr Malpas, a natural healer who runs workshops in smudging, learnt the ritual from a member of the Cherokee tribe. "Once I'd checked that it didn't seem to conflict with my Christian beliefs I felt I had nothing to lose," Mrs Riley says.

The ceremony, which costs about £150, takes several hours. It involves incense, bells, drumming and prayer.

"We are all now aware of the physical garbage that we leave around, but people don't know about the psychic garbage that can build up," Mr Malpas says.

"Smudging is about space-clearing and the power of good intentions, helped by ritual, to free up energy that may have become trapped. If you have stagnant energy around you won't feel comfortable."

First, Mr Malpas, helped by his wife Elsa, sets up an altar with symbols of the four elements: a crystal for the earth, a candle for fire, feathers for air, and water. He burns incense and calls upon the powers of the North, South, East and West for help. He also asks for the aid of the Archangel Michael, whom he believes has control over the natural forces.

He lights the sage "smudge stick" and moves around with the smouldering herbs, wafting the pungent smoke into every part of the room, particularly into the corners where, he says, energy is most likely to build up. Drumming on a Native American instrument and ringing bells, large and loud at first, then tiny and tinkling, is performed throughout the house to wake up the energy, to move it and to cleanse it. "Anything will do for this: I used saucepan lids when I started," Mr Malpas says. "If there is a build-up of energy the large bell becomes heavy and hard to ring."

He prays and meditates during the ceremony and finishes by playing the flute to acknowledge the powers that be.

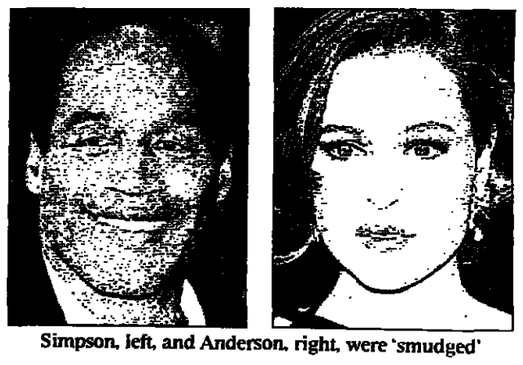
One of Mr Malpas's recent successes was in bringing peace to a nursing home where residents were being plagued with bizarre happenings, including unexplained fires. In this case, he says, he actually saw a mass of trapped energy over the building. Mrs Riley is trying to keep an open mind about her smudging. "While it was going on I felt absolutely nothing," she says. "I was smudged myself and I still felt nothing."

But the punch line is that two days after the ceremony, three prospective buyers came to see Mrs Riley's house, one of whom bought it. "Cynics might say this is just a huge coincidence and I can't prove it wasn't," Mrs Riley says. "But I'm obviously delighted. All I can say is, it worked for me."

That is just as well because Mrs Riley is a property lawyer and her fiancé, Nick, is an estate agent.

● *Howard Malpas 0181-758 9950*

FAMOUSLY SMUDGED



Simpson, left, and Anderson, right, were 'smudged'

LIKE all trends that cross the Atlantic, smudging has reached our shores at an inflated price. Assuming that you don't suffer from respiratory conditions, prices for a professional "smudger" here start at about £50 for a one-bedroom flat, and rise to £200 for a large four-bedroom house. However, if you can't afford the services of a "professional", your local New Age supplier can furnish you with a DIY smudge kit for about a fiver.

Stateside, the practitioners of this Native American ritual have names such as Sunshine Eagle. Perhaps estate agents who persuade their clients that smudging will help shift their property should adopt similar handles such as Spiritual Seller or Swift Commission.

Celebrities whose homes have been smudged include Gillian Anderson, Agent Scully in the *X-Files*, whose decision to give her Vancouver home the full shamanistic treatment after she discovered it was built on an old Indian burial site could be explained by her spending too much time on the set and becoming just a little too involved in the plots of the paranormal TV series.

A New York apartment that was once rented by O J Simpson and Nicole Brown was recently smudged. The smudger, Eleni Santoro, reported (predictably) that there was a lot of negative energy in the rooms. If only someone had cleansed their LA home before tragedy struck, she seemed to imply.

That estate agents have forged a link with the over-paid practitioners of a similarly dubious art is, at least, entertaining.

JOE WARWICK

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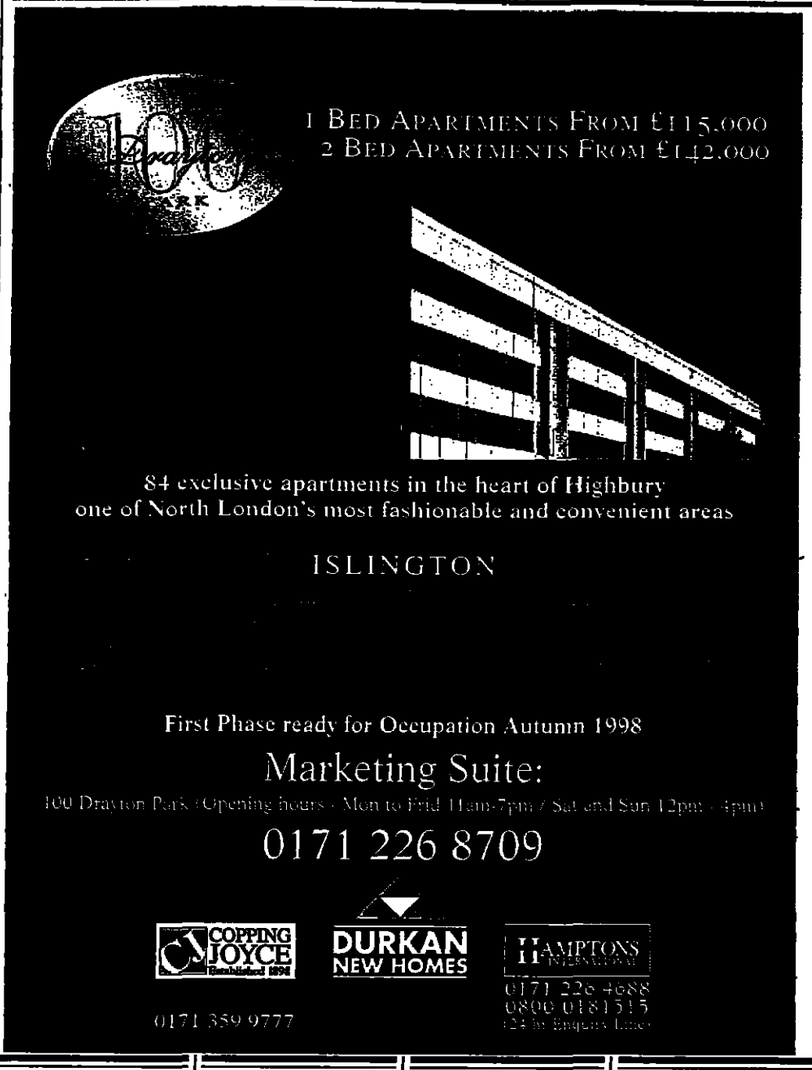
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Diamond Club las Calas III	Lanzarote	June	1	High	6	1700
Club Maritima	Tenerife	August	2	High	4	995
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	July/Aug	2	High	4	1950
Caleta Azul Beach Club	Fuerteventura	Float	1	High	4	1795
Castillo Beach Club	Fuerteventura	Float	2	High	4	1695
Fairways Club	Tenerife	May	1	High	3	2150
Canary Island Hof Club	Tenerife	August	4	High	6	1500
Club Olympus	Tenerife	October	2	High	5	1895
Sunset Beach Club	Tenerife	August	1	High	4	1950
The Paradise Club	Tenerife	August	3	High	3	2450
Las Rosas	Tenerife	August	1	High	4	2250
Beverly Hills Club	Tenerife	June	2	High	4	1895
Sunset Bay Club	Tenerife	Jan/Feb	2	High	5	1695
Club Flamingo	Tenerife	October	1	High	4	1785
Parque Del Sol	Tenerife	March	1	High	3	1785
Club La Paz	Tenerife	July	2	High	5	1595
Barratt Villacana Club	Costa Del Sol	Aug/Sept	5	High	5	2500
Pueblo Evita Club	Costa Del Sol	July	1	High	3	1700
Mi Jardin	Costa Del Sol	August	1	High	6	1750
Barratt Dona Lola Club	Costa Del Sol	May/Jun/Jul	3	High	5	3750
Barratt Leila Playa Club	Costa Del Sol	June	2	High	3	3250
Barratt Villacana Club	Costa Del Sol	June/Oct	3	High	5	2750
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Alfager Village	Algarve	October	1	High	5	2295
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LONDON PROPERTY



RETIREMENT HOMES

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Diary of a househunter

MONDAY
It's proving hard to flat-hunt in London when we are house-sitting in leafy Surrey. It's not so much the travelling in and out of the capital as having to leave a ten-bedroom palace for grotty W3.

TUESDAY
Spend the afternoon, with the baby in the back of the car, driving along Acton Lane with my mother. I shout out numbers of estate agents and she writes them down. When I call them later, two are betting shops.

WEDNESDAY
Shepherds Bush is expensive: two-bedroom flats without gardens start at



£120,000. Details of a one-bedroom flat in Elsham Road, W14 — identical to one we saw two years ago at £95,000 — arrive, priced £145,000.

THURSDAY
Acton is now our only option for buying in west London. Our first viewing is in Brouncker Road, W3, but my husband won't even get out of the car. The coward was put off by the tower blocks.

FRIDAY
It's no good. After a huge row, we decide we have to head south again to Earlsfield. The ripple effect from Notting Hill Gate across west London has drowned our chances of ever buying here.

EMMA MAHONY

● *Next week: success in Earlsfield*

Two into one home can go

Buying with friends gets your foot in the door, but beware the pitfalls, says **Rachel Kelly**

Pity the long-suffering first-time buyers. Having agonised for months about whether they can afford a house, they now have another problem: there doesn't seem to be anything to buy.

Everyone from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to the National Association of Estate Agents is saying the same thing: there is hardly any property on the market.

The latest Land Registry figures show that there were just 108,000 sales in May — the lowest monthly figure since September 1996. Other Government statistics show that, on average, there are now about 1.2 million houses on the market, almost 800,000 fewer houses to choose from than there were in the late 1980s.

One response to the dearth of supply is a reappearance of joint buying. This trend was last seen in the 1980s when the chance of two dollops of Miras tax-relief led to a boom before the then Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, abolished the double break in 1989. Now, once again, buyers are teaming up with a friend to double their fire-power.

Professor Malcolm Hollis, chairman of surveying at Reading University, has noted the trend. "Most people are sharing because they can get something of better quality," he says. "One plus one equals three bedrooms, and three means paying one third of the mortgage."

Former slumps indicate that the smaller properties were often the hardest to sell. Buying together — creating what Prof Hollis describes as "chummeries" — might be the only way of buying extra security by purchasing quality.

There are no figures to prove exactly how many buddies are buying because lenders treat them simply as joint applicants. No distinction is made between friends and a married couple.

But there is anecdotal evidence that the trend is strong



Co-owned houses are becoming more popular

in the South East where, the Halifax reports, prices rose by 2.4 per cent in the first three months of the year.

Journalist Philip Delves Broughton chose to double-up with an old friend to buy what he describes as "a decent-sized place in a decent area".

Mr Delves Broughton has known his friend, Jo Johnson, since he was 13. They now live together in a two-bedroom flat near Ladbroke Grove. He and his new flatmate are both single and wanted to buy rather than rent. "Ideally, we'll make some money and then move up the property scale," Mr Delves Broughton says.

The only downside was that their lender, Barclays, asked both men to have an Aids test. Neither of them were gay. The flat on Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, in west London, cost £255,000.

Mr Delves Broughton formerly rented a flat in the same area that cost him £600 a month. Since they moved in together last year, he says there has been no squabbling. "The mortgage and bills are paid through a joint direct debit account and I just pay in a lump sum every month. Apart from the kitchen, there are no communal areas and because we're so busy and he is often at his girlfriend's, we see less of each other than we used to, and it works well."

His advice to others is to move in with a person they can trust: "It has to be someone you can comfortably talk about money with; someone whose opinion you respect."

They have a legal agreement stating that if one of the two friends wants to sell, the other has to agree.

Similar harmony emanates from Higham Park in Kent, an 87-room mansion shared since 1995 by Pat Gibb and her friend of 26 years, Amanda Harris Deane. They teamed up with Mrs Gibb's son Pat to restore the Portland stone house, which stands in 24 acres of sunken water gardens and terraced rose beds. All three names appear on the house deeds as joint owners.

"It's all based on good faith. Without trust you're dead. We have no legal contract. It's not a business thing. Everyone gets so much pleasure out of it. We're sharing something that none of us could originally buy and it's wonderful."

The three of them sold their houses in Kent and north London and pooled the profits of £900,000 to buy the mansion. The size of the project meant that instead of taking out a mortgage, they drew up a business plan showing how the collateral borrowed would be enhanced and took it to City banks and companies.

They expect to spend at least another £750,000 on renovations in the next ten years, and have already spent £80,000 on the gardens. The house's size — the ballroom alone is 55ft by 35ft — reduces the chance of petty quarrels between partners, as does the sense of joint purpose. "It's so big that we've all got our own space, so nothing is a problem."

Five years ago Caroline Bell, a 35-year-old estate agent, and a friend, Phillipa Simpson, jointly took out a Halifax mortgage to buy a £97,500 terraced cottage in Wandsworth, London. This typically Victorian two-up, two-down house on Wilna Road has more than doubled in price. "I couldn't afford it on my own," she says.

She has successfully negotiated the potential minefield of selling up. Five years later, she lives alone. When Ms Simpson, her junior by two years, got married last May, the house was worth £150,000 and Ms Bell bought her out.

"Phillipa and I used to rent with two others in Balham. I knew her for six years before we bought together."

Before they bought the house they signed a legally binding contract stating that neither party could sell within the first 18 months.

Ms Bell says: "It's crucial to have a contract that stops you selling within the first five minutes. Apart from a few problems, we got on really well. If you've invested money in something, you don't want to lose it the next day.

"I think that the house gets far better looked after when you are joint owners. If that's the only way to get on the ladder then I'd recommend it.

"Now, if I needed extra money for the mortgage I could rent out a room." The only contentious issue in the split was custody of the cat. It now lives with Ms Bell.

● *Additional research by Lucy Adams*

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Caroline Bell and Phillipa Simpson's jointly-owned house has doubled in price, allowing them to buy separately

JOINT BUYERS BEWARE

- Ensure that you are aware of market trends in the area in which you are buying.
- Be clear on the length of commitment you have in mind and try to get the mortgage best suited to your specific requirements.
- Make sure you know what you are buying. Just because you are sharing the financial risks doesn't mean they no longer exist. As Ian Perry of the RICS says: "Whether you buy quality or not, if you have paid too much, you have paid too much."
- Make sure that you draw up a legal document covering the future sale and financial responsibilities of the household.
- Remember if one partner defaults on their part of the mortgage, the other would be expected to pay their half or lose the house.
- You need a clause that covers the possibility of one party deciding to move out.
- Make sure you have insurance that covers problems — what happens if one friend loses their job and finds themself in a position in which they can no longer keep up with repayments?
- Give each other space within the household and try to maintain social and financial interests outside the home.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Praying for good health



Ruth Gledhill is moved by a service celebrating 50 years of the NHS

BACH's *Fantasia*, played by assistant organist Stephen Le Prevost, rippled through the choir, nave and out above our heads in the transept as we sat in Westminster Abbey waiting for Tony Blair and the Prince of Wales to arrive. This was the ultimate in healing services, the 50th anniversary celebration of the NHS. Rarely can so many doctors, nurses, administrators, lawyers, psychotherapists and others from the healing professions — 1,800 in all — have gathered to pray.

We began with the national anthem. Acting organist Martin Baker launched into the *Imperial March* and then we sang *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* while the NHS banner was carried through the Abbey.

"We recall with gratitude the long history of human endeavour to make a society which is free from prejudice and ignorance, sickness, fear and pain," said the Dean of Westminster, Dr Wesley Carr, in the Bidding. The Rev Robert Clarke, chief executive of the Hospital Chaplaincies Council, read the parable of the Good Samaritan from *Luke's gospel*.

The Prime Minister read from Aneurin Bevan's foundation document of July 1948. "On July 5, there is no reason why the whole of the doctor-patient relationship should not be freed from what most of us feel should be irrelevant to it, the money factor, the collection of fees or thinking how to pay fees," he said.

There was no sermon. After another hymn, we had a series of six reflections from doctors, patients and nurses. Dr Hasmukh Joshi, a GP, described growing up in the west of India, and seeing his aunt, her 18-month-old baby and a little boy who lived nearby all die of tuberculosis.

"In the early to mid-50s we, as children, were more likely to be killed by one of the deadly killer diseases rather than by accidents, as happens to the children of today," he said. "By the time I qualified as a doctor in 1969, I had yet to see a case of diphtheria."

Dr Femi Oyebode, a psychiatrist from Birmingham, spoke of developments in the treatment of mental illness. "Newer drugs for the treatment of schizophrenia and also for the treatment of dementias are being introduced. These drugs and the developing psycho-social treatments are likely to make it possible for many more people suffering from mental illness to lead fulfilling lives," he said.

Fred Roach, a patient and volunteer who had open-heart surgery at Papworth in 1978, described how, amid all the changes taking place in the NHS, the enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers had remained constant.

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

DEAN: *Dr Wesley Carr*

ARCHITECTURE: Ten statues of 20th-century martyrs unveiled on Gothic West Front this week

★★★★★

MUSIC: Haydn's setting of Psalm 19 a highlight

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LITURGY: Hymns, readings, prayers

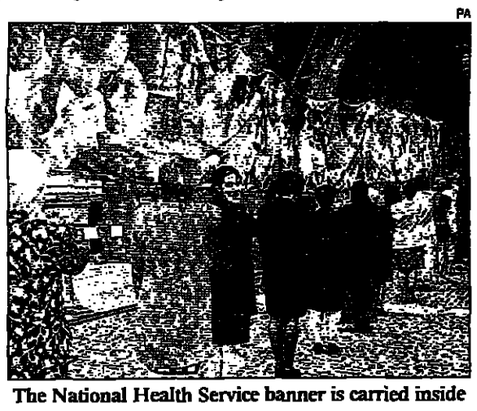
★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Calm restored ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Guests invited to reception

★★★

PA



The National Health Service banner is carried inside

A faith alive and kicking

Simon Rocker reports on how young British Jews are becoming more innovative, active and adventurous

For all the pessimism about its decline, British Jewry is more active than at any time since the war. Jewish education, in particular, is enjoying a boom.

By the early 1990s, Jewish day schools had increased their enrolment by 50 per cent from 1960s levels, accounting for a third of primary-age Jewish children and a quarter of secondary-age. More schools have opened since, and others are on the way.

A host of new adult educational ventures has also sprung up in the past 10 to 15 years. The annual *Limmud* [learning] conference, held in December, started as a retreat for 80 people in the early 1980s. It has exploded into a five-day jamboree of knowledge, with more than 1,000 participants and a choice of 150 sessions a day.

Alexander Goldberg, who is 24 and works for the London-based European Council of Jewish Communities, says: "The numbers of young people taking some form of education in the UK are rising, the number of programmes is rising, the numbers going to *Yeshivah* [Talmudic college] is increasing."

But it is not only the volume that is noticeable, it is the increase in diversity in a community notorious for conservatism. Young Jews are willing to experiment with new forms of self-expression.

The first alternative Jewish community celebrated its tenth birthday last month. Called the *Ruach chavurah* (Ruach means "spirit", a chavurah is an informal prayer group), it offers a freer, more eclectic approach to Jewish tradition than most synagogues, with members getting together in each other's homes or at small halls in north London.

Naomi Goldman, a 32-year-old TV producer living in Kilburn, joined *Ruach* in the early days. Despite a conventional upbringing — Orthodox Sunday school, a year in Israel with her Zionist youth group at 18 — she considered herself a "secular, ethnic and atheist" Jew by her 20s. But she was curious enough to explore the nascent alternative scene.

"By getting involved in the *chavurah* the focus of my Judaism shifted to something more spiritual," she says. "I stopped ignoring those feelings of otherness that I used to suppress and started to accept that I believed in God.

"What I like about the *Ruach* service is that there is no leader, we take it in turns to lead. It's egalitarian. We also sit in a circle so we're not praying to someone's back. When we read the Torah portion, we take time to discuss it. It's not like an ordinary synagogue service where you feel like you are in a theatre performance in which you have no part."

With 40 adults and a dozen children, *Ruach* has kept its numbers small to preserve intimacy. But its ideas are being parallelled elsewhere. Some synagogues have launched their own *chavurah*. Other groups are rediscovering practices such as meditation and mantra-like chanting, once thought the preserve of Eastern religions, in the writings of Jewish mystics.

The *kabbalah*, the arcane theosophical system spurned by rationalist Jewish thinkers of the 19th century as hocus-pocus, is experiencing a revival — and not only in Jewish circles. The brother of the rabbi who initiated Madonna into Judaism's mystical insights travels one Sunday in three from Paris to give classes at a Jewish centre in London.

It was from America that Vivienne Cato, director of education at Wimbledon Reform Synagogue, picked up a tai-chi-style Jewish movement system, invented by a lecturer in English literature and Chinese called Yehudit Goldfarb. Known as *Otiot Chayot* [Living Letters], the movements are based on the shapes of the Hebrew alphabet. "It can be seen as a gentle form of Jewish exercise," Cato explains. "Or, more deeply, as giving spiritual insight into the hidden meaning of the letters.

"In the view of the *kabbalah*, the world was created through words. God spoke the world into being. Each of the letters has a specific spiritual property and, in making the movements, you can feel connected to that energy. By combining the letters, you can make words and so you can pray with your body."

PETER FISHER



Young Jews are finding new forms of religious expression

GARY HERSHORN/REUTERS



Madonna has taken an interest in mystical Judaism

Not only is there evidence of spiritual adventure, but cultural innovation as well. The Besht Tellers theatre — named after one of the Chassidic masters — has dramatised Jewish legends and folklore.

A young musician, Erran Baron Cohen, has been taking recordings of old synagogue cantors and devotional music from other religions and blending it with Middle Eastern textures, trip-hop and contemporary rhythms.

Shortly to release a second album, he uses the band-name Zohar, after the central book of the *kabbalah*. Traditional cantorial music may be in danger of dying out in synagogues, but it can strike a chord in clubs. "People are affected, although they don't know what it is," he says.

Cultural vitality is the crucial factor for Keith Harris, a member of a reading circle for Jewish postgraduates, who has carried out research on Jewish singles. Spirituality groups have limited appeal and there are many young Jews untouched by the education organisations, he argues. "They think, 'I'm not religious, I don't believe in God. How can I be Jewish?'."

Instead, they could take a cue from contemporary Israeli culture, he says. He recently spent a month in the country researching his doctorate.

"Dana International was over here the other week and she played a gay night. The next night she ought to have been playing at a Jewish club," he says. The transsexual who won Israel the Eurovision song contest this year would hardly be most rabbis' idea of a role model. But Mr Harris believes Judaism at its best has always been a "mixture of the sacred and the profane".

When a good sense of humour is simply Divine

Credo

JONATHAN SACKS

The poet W H Auden used to quote the following as one of his favourite examples of Jewish humour. "Maybe," sighed the sage after a lifetime of contemplating human suffering, "it would have been better not to have been born. But how many are so lucky? Not one in a thousand!"

From the earliest days, humour seems to have been part of the Jewish personality. The great third-century teacher Rav would always begin his classes in Jewish law with a joke. The Book of Esther, with its terrifying theme of attempted genocide, is nonetheless shot through with as many reversals and misunderstandings as a Whitehall farce.

Even the Genesis story of the Tower of Babel contains wonderful touches of Divine humour. Men have decided to build a "tower whose top will reach the heavens". But God has to "come down" to see it, so minute is it from the perspective of heaven. Thus is man's hubris mocked.

A sense of humour is not something we normally associate with the realm of faith. The religious personality is more likely to be linked in our mind with images of austere puritans or stern, unbending Victorians such as Gladstone, than with storytellers who have a twinkle in their eye. If religion is a capacity to invest life with ultimate seriousness, then humour is precisely the opposite, an ability to say, "nothing is so serious that we cannot laugh".

Jews though, and not only Jews, would disagree. It was Peter Berger, the American sociologist, who put it best when he spoke of the sense of humour as one of the "signals of transcendence" that break through into the human situation and remind us of something beyond. We are part of nature, but there is a dimension of human consciousness that lies beyond nature. We are physical beings, but there are aspects of the human spirit that cannot be reduced to physics — and the ability to understand a joke is one of them.

Could a computer have a sense of humour? Probably not. The reason, I would guess, is that humour has to do with our ability to see things differently, to escape from the cage of tragedy, to affirm the freedom of the mind.

What we can laugh at, we can rise above. Perhaps that is why Jews, along with other groups who have suffered much and suffered long, have developed a sense of humour as their defence against despair. Humour has something to do with hope.

C S Lewis wrote: "Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice... Men propound mathematical theorems in beleaguered cities, conduct metaphysical arguments in condemned cells, make jokes on scaffolds, discuss the last new poem while advancing to the walls of Quebec and comb their hair at Thermopylae."

There is something majestic about a human nature that can detach itself from the immediate and float in the free air of the ultimate. And perhaps laughter — our ability not to take ourselves too seriously — is related to our ability to take other things very seriously indeed.

Be that as it may, I am moved by the fact that the first child of the covenant was named Isaac, meaning "he who will laugh".

His was not an easy life. As a child Isaac was almost killed. As a father he was deceived. For the last years of his life he was blind. However, his ability to laugh was the victory of faith over fate.

And humour remains God's gift of humanity in a sometimes inhuman world.

● *Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth*

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Lord for thy tender mercy's sake (Hilton); 3.15 EP.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Civic service, Rev E Owen; 3.15 Ch E, Aston in F; 5 Gosber.*

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 11 S Euch. Sacerdotes domini (Byrd); 3.30 EP.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mozart in C; 5 Diocesan service; 6 E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: For the beauty of the earth (Rutter); 10.30 Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Bishop of Lancaster; 3.30 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, Missa brevis de sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.30 E, Stanford in A.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart); 3.30 Ch E, Dyson in D, Rev I White.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Rev R H C Symon; 3.15 E, Wood in D; 6.30 Compline, Rev Dr M J Chandler.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, Bishop of Zululand; 3 E, Collegium regale (Howells).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Experimental Eucharistic prayer; 11.15 Ch M, Collegium regale (Howells); 6 Ch E, A: Though I speak with the tongues (Bairstow).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Canon T Dennis; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 6.30 Diocesan service, Hallelujah chorus (Handel), Archbishop of Christchurch.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Canon D Landreth; 11 S Euch, Mozart in D; 1.30 Service for children; 3.30 E, Chichester service (Walton).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Dublin: 11 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais); 3.30 Ch E, For to I raise up (Stanford).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C, Canon Webster; 11.15 S Euch; 6 E, Stanford in A.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, O salutaris hostia (Elgar); 3 German Lutherans; 5 Ch E, Stanford in G.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C; 11.15 HC, Missa papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Bishop F Soares; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Rev J McFarlane; 3.45 E, Beato quorum via (Stanford).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mozart in F; 11.15 M A: O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore), Bishop of Cyprus; 3 E, Responses (Leighton); 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 12.15 HC; 3 E, Gloucester service (Howells).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Ave verum (Mozart); 11.30 M, Sumsion in G; 6.30 E, Stanford in A.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M, Ireland in F; 3.30 E, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, A: Santo santo (El Salvador); 4 Diocesan service.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 11.15 M, Noble in B minor; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Stanford in G.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Rt Rev M Hough; 6 National Health Service 50th anniverasy, Noble in A minor.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 Family C; 10.30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais), Rev Dr T Schnitker; 3.30 Diocesan service, Archbishop of Papua New Guinea; 6.30 EP.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: *9.30 M, Ireland in F; 10.30 Euch, Schubert in G; 3.30 E, St Paul's service (Howells).*

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); 11.15 Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Venerable I Gatford; 6 Festal E, Kelly in C.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 9.30 Euch, Rt Rev K Fernando; 11.30 Ch Euch, Missa choralis (Liszt); 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Stanford in G, Canon A Nicholl.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Brinen in C; 10.30 S Euch, Little Organ mass (Haydn), Canon E Turner; 3.15 E, Aston in F.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E; 6.30 E, St Paul's service (Howells), Canon C Smith.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Rev C Wood; 3 Ch E, Murrill in E.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: *7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Jackson in C, Canon M R Austin; 3.15 E, Stanford in B flat.*

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais); 3 National Health Service 50th anniversary; 6 E, Jackson in G, Canon R Redrup.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Sol Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart), Canon R Capper; 1.15 Parachute Regiment service; 5 World Church service.*

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Stanford in C & F; 11.30 M; 3 E, Wood in G flat, The Dean.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: *8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, Rev B Fenton; 3 E, Collegium regale (Tavener); 5.45 Organ recital: Sean Farrell; 6.30 ES, Rev P Chesier.*

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass, Messe à deux choeurs et deux orgues (Widor); 2.45 Organ recital: David Cook; 3.30 Sol V & B, Great is the Lord (Elgar).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart); 3.30 E, Blair in B minor; 9.30 Compline.

YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd), Rt Rev S Chiwanga; 11.30 S Euch, Missa bel' amfitrit' altera (Lassus); 4 E, Stanford in A.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Sol Euch, Mass in E flat (Rheinberger); 1 Roman Catholic Mass; 6.30 E, Wesley in E, Canon Ritson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, A: O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch M, Stanford in C; 6 Ch E, Wood in E flat.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells), Canon M Shaw; 11.30 Ch C, Jackson in G; 3.30 Ch E, Te lucis ante terminum (plainsong); 7.15 World Church service.

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8, 11.15 Euch, Rev R Dadswell; 7 EP.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SE1: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Sol Mass, Coronation mass (Mozart); 6 LM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Rev Prof P J Gomes; 6 St Giles' at Six; 8 ES, Rev D K Robertson.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES:

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa aedeis Christi (Mathias), Rev J Conway; 3.30 Ch E, St John's service (Howells).

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Missa cum jubilo (Duruflé), Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Rev R C Reed; 3.15 Ch E, Howells in D.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDTRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Mozart in B flat; 3.15 E, Collegium regale (Tavener), Canon S Oliver; 6.30 Diocesan service.

ST WOOLOS CATHEDRAL, Newport, Gwent: 8, 9.15 Euch; 10.30 M, Gray in A; 6.30 E, Responses (Oxley).

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Messe solennelle (Gounod), Canon N Frayling; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Dyson in D.

ALL SOULS, W1: 9.30, 11.30 MP; 6.30 EP, **THE ASSUMPTION,** W1: 11 Praise and thanksgiving (Rheinberger).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Rev D Jones; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Mr J Watherston.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM, Os justi (Bruckner); 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 Sol Euch, Missa Gloria (Vivaldi).

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass; 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP; 6.30 EP, Rev E Fletcher.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev V Frazier; 7 Bach Vespers, Rev P D Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Ireland in F, Dr M Dudley; 6.30 Ch Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé).

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Whitlock in G, Like as the hart (Howells), Canon J Oares; 6.30 Ch E, Brewer in D, Give unto the Lord (Elgar).

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M, Sumsion in G, Short service (Gibbons), Rev P Mills; 12.30 HC.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, Rev D P Bush; 6.30, Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Toccata in F (Bach).

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, W1: 9.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Drop drop slow tears (Leighton); 6 Ch E, Short service (Causton).

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Family service, David Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev M Okello.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, A: Sancta Maria (Guerrero), Rev C Kevill-Davies; 6.30 E.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa misericordiae domini (Langlais), Rev T Andrews.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch, Rev P Cowell.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, *WC2: 9.45 Euch, A: Never weather-beaten sail (Parry); 11.30 Visitor's service; 5 Ch E, Sumsion in G.*

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa Iste confessor (Palestrina); 6 Sol E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 10.30 S Euch, Harwood in A flat major.

ST MARYLEBONE, *NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa choralis (Liszt), Rev J Caldwell.*

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Schubert in G, My soul there is a country (Parry), Rev W Gutlliford.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Tomkins), A: Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Rev P R C Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Set me as a seal (Walton), Canon J Stanley.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Ch M, O for a closer walk with God (Stanford); 3.30 E, Murrill in E.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Ireland in F, A: The King shall rejoice (Derry), Mr J McGuire.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, WC1: 11.15 S Euch.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Clarifica me Pater (Byrd), Ireland in F, The Master.

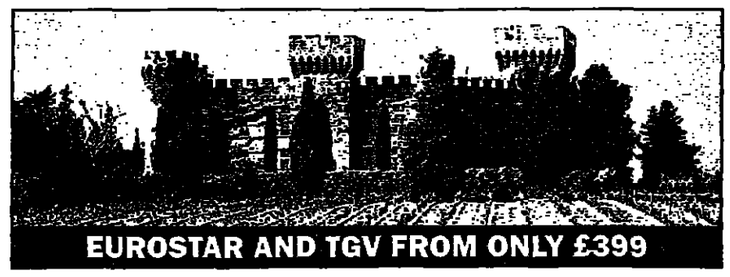
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Band of the Blues and Royals, Jesu dulcis memoria (Victoria), Rev J P Jennings; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells), A: O be joyful (Britten), Rev R Nurton.

★ *Compiled by Deborah King*

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CHANGING TIMES

'Dr Ridge compared the sound of a mating stag to someone beating a giant bell. "It goes on day and night," he said'

Deer? They're horny creatures

"The most dangerous thing you can do to a deer is to get it by itself in a confined space," Dr Julian Ridge, a speaker at the World Deer Farming Congress, explained.

"I foolishly did it to a young stag once," he said, "and he stuck an antler in my groin. When I was being stitched up in the Bristol Royal Infirmary I saw they'd written something up on the board in casualty: 'Dr Ridge. Gored by a stag — yes, really!' it read."

A veteran of 15 years' deer farming, Dr Ridge is used to coping with surprised reactions. His subject at the Limerick Deer Congress was the rewards and problems of selling venison at the farm gate. His pet hate is what he calls "the Bambi syndrome" — that sentimental British quirk which means the customer can't actually see a deer, or they'll be put off eating venison altogether.

I couldn't quite believe this, because the longer I talked to him, and the more time I spent gazing at his animals, the less easy I found it to hold that classic Disney image in my head.

For a start, the deer make the most peculiar noises. While I was there the farm rang with bird-like shrieks, which are the call of newborn calves. But Dr Ridge assured me that the sound the mating stag made in autumn was far odder. He described it as a loud roaring, with a high-pitched timbre to it, like someone beating a giant bell. "It's continuous day and night," he said. "And it's the sort of noise that seems very exciting the first week, less so the second, and quite infuriating the third." (It lasts for six.)

During this time the stags don't eat at all, and can lose up to a third of their body-weight. "They start out fat and wobbly and end up emaciated. They have a wonderful time getting there."

Following any herd of hinds will be a main stag and a youngster. While the main one roars aggressively, the youngster lurks silently in the background, then leaps on the odd hind when he thinks he can. But he bolts for safety immediately afterwards. "The technical term for him is a "sneaky f*cker", Dr Ridge told me. "I've seen it quoted in the most erudite of publications."

As we drove into the fenced 16-hectare pasture where he keeps his red deer, Dr Ridge warned me again about how dangerous they could be, especially the hinds with their young. Apparently, you should worry if a deer stares at you while grinding its teeth, or sidles up behind you with its tongue sticking out. They're very strong, weighing as much as a small cow, and can destroy a Land Rover by charging at it.

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

As a way of getting me to appreciate the wildness of his deer, Dr Ridge described the time he'd tried to help a hind who was having difficulty calving. "I knew she was stuck because she'd spent a long time with just the front end of a calf hanging out. So I waited until she lay down in the grass and then crept very quietly up behind her. Just as I touched the sticking-out legs the hind heard me, stood up, and bolted, leaving me with the calf."

The experience was enough to turn the hind against her offspring. She never returned to it, and in the end Dr Ridge's wife, Liza, had to rear it on a bottle.

After listening to this sobering tale I was startled when a number of deer, including a full-sized stag, ran up to our vehicle and tried to clamber in through the windows. A little abashed, Dr Ridge explained that they were bottle-fed: unlike ordinary deer, they adore being cuddled. Strangely, though, any calves they produce are nearly always wild. This sort of behaviour is what makes deer so fascinating. Their domestication is just beginning to take place through selective breeding — the first time for 5,000 years that man has created a new domesticant.

With some misgivings, I stepped out into the field and began stroking the pet stag, who turned his head reproachfully if I stopped my caresses. I was exploring his antlers, which were warm, thickly covered in grey velvet, and had cushiony growing tips, when Dr Ridge explained that as one of the sidelines of his business he sells tails, pizzles and antlers to a Chinaman in Milton Keynes who makes them into Oriental medicine.

He wasn't being callous. After all, he's a professional, and deer farming appeals to him precisely because he can control every stage of it. That includes a swift, stress-free slaughter. The animals are shot from a distance while feeding, and the survivors are so untroubled by the experience that they don't even scatter.

He cuts the venison up himself, and the only disadvantage to selling it to the public is that most people regard it as a special-occasion luxury, so only eat it at Christmas. He'd prefer to run his farm at Brockley, near Bristol, like a French one, with summer visitors given conducted trips through the deer enclosure before, and buying a venison salami on the way out. It can't happen like that because of the Bambi syndrome — and I'm ashamed to say that, even though I'm a farmer's wife, after cuddling that stag I couldn't buy any venison either.

MIKE SCOTT/NTI

Birds, bees and turnover

Colin Tudge on the moral unease over hi-tech farming



The Royal Show is more of a beauty contest these days than anything else. Pretty creatures they may be, but if they don't pay, there is no place for them in modern-day farming

They are magnificent, the bulls at this week's Royal Show at Stoneleigh, shuffling through the straw — Highlands, South Devons, British Whites, names as redolent as royalty — but are they real?

Well, they are solid enough and vast and could squash us flat, but as one aficionado said: "The Royal is a circus. It's performance that counts, and that's on a computer print-out. Who cares what they look like?"

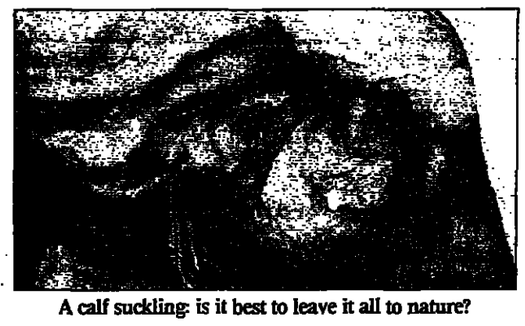
The Royal, in short, is agriculture qua aesthetics, the acceptable, lovely face of farming, a pleasantly protracted postscript to the 18th century-enlightenment agriculture. It really isn't like this any more.

Commerce rules these days: cost, output, margin, profit, market, demand, competition. Cattle may still feed on grass and some of the traditional breeds do have a future — the Chinese, for example, might soon be investing heavily in South Devons — but cash and capital rule. Highland steers produce wonderful beef in three years (though the BSE regulations limit them to two and a half), but most beef these days comes from the offspring of black and white Holstein dairy cows crossed with a beefy Hereford or Charolais which is then fattened in 18 months. Few producers can afford to hang around longer.

Ayrshire and Shorthorn dairy cows on their lovely meadows traditionally gave 600 to 800 gallons of milk a year — about two to three times as much as a wild cow — while many a modern Holstein gives 2,000 and some dairy barons dream of 4,000: cows that spend their days in the milking parlour and stoke up on concentrates because there's too little time for grazing. Sows edge towards 30 piglets a year, hens give 300 eggs, broilers fatten in six weeks, turkeys are too globular to stand, and still the handle turns. If you halve the production time you double the turnover, and that is the sine qua non.

High-tech has made the difference and, in particular, the technology of reproduction and the manipulation of sperm, eggs, and embryos. In this, agriculture and human medicine have nudged each other along. The great Scottish physician, John Hunter, made a woman pregnant by artificial insemination in the 1790s and in 1884 in Philadelphia, a physician offered sperm from "the handsomest student in the class", but artificial insemination for cattle took off only after the 1940s. Now most cattle in developed countries are conceived by it.

On the distaff side, endocrinologists found that by injecting the right hormones, they could induce cows to produce up to 30 eggs at a time instead of the usual meagre singleton. This is superovulation. In the 1960s and 1970s, Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe developed in vitro fertilisation (IVF) for people and the cattle breeders took it up. In the 1980s it became possible to freeze embryos which could then be transferred to the wombs of other cows. Put artificial insemination, superovulation, IVF, and embryo freezing together and breeders can now produce scores of embryos from a single elite cow (crossed, if necessary, with a variety of elite bulls), freeze them, put them in the post, and have them brought to term in the wombs of any cow, anywhere in the world. Only money, logistics, and an inability to decide what is really worth doing, prevent all the world's cattle from being elite.



A calf suckling: is it best to leave it all to nature?

Genetic engineering — transferral of DNA from one animal to another — became commercial in bacteria by the 1980s, and was on line for livestock in the 1990s. The greatest task now is to identify genes that are worth transferring: this is the growing science of genomics, of which the Human Genome Project (HUGO) is the best-known example. When genomics is fully operative, and genetic engineering is a little more efficient, then we really will have designer animals. Theoretically, we should wait to see how the newly-introduced genes settle down in livestock as in crops — what they do as the generations pass and are combined within different genetic backgrounds. But commerce is impatient. There probably won't be time for such niceties.

And now we have cloning. Cloning of cattle was tried in the US in the 1980s and failed commercially, but the Roslin Institute method that produced Dolly the sheep is far superior. In truth, the Roslin scientists are not interested simply in producing elite farm animals. They are producing much more exclusive beasts that express therapeutic proteins in their milk for human medicine. This is colloquially known as 'pharming' and could save many human lives with no inconvenience to the animals. But the Roslin work nonetheless puts cloning back on the agenda and others will surely think again about elite farm livestock — elite, in the future, meaning designer.

Is all this high-tech intrinsically bad? Well, many clearly agree with the Prince of Wales that such meddling is blasphemous. The more obvious objections, though, are pragmatic. Already the creatures that are bred for show-ring rosettes may grow more flesh than their feeble skeletons can support, may thrive only in constant light or constant dark, and are bred to be stupid so they don't notice the privation. If productivity is the only guide then high-tech will make it all worse. We might, in principle, produce flesh without bone or brain at all. No brain no pain; but still, there are unacceptable ways of getting rid of it.

But high-tech is not inevitably bad. On show at the Royal this year is a device for sexing the sperm of cattle to ensure (with 90 per cent certainty) that the offspring are born of the sex required. Sperms that will produce a female offspring contain an X chromosome: those for males contain a Y chromosome: X chromosomes are bigger than Ys. As chromosomes are made of DNA, sperm for females contains more DNA than sperm for males. Just add a little dye to the sperm to attach to the DNA, then run it past a laser eye. Put a positive or negative electric charge on the sperm that has more or less colour and separate the two magnetically: Bob's your uncle. The idea was mooted in Cambridge in the 1960s, developed in Colorado by XY Inc, and is now marketed by Cogent in Cheshire.

Nothing in cattle farming is more important than the sex of the offspring. Thus Holstein dairy cows are either mated with Holstein bulls (by artificial insemination) to produce more dairy cows, or are crossed by beefy bulls to produce steers for beef. But half the offspring sired by the Holstein bull are inevitably male. The male calves are obviously no good as dairy herd replacements and, as it happens, they are not good for beef either. In these BSE days the male dairy calves are knocked on the head at one week of age (when they are old enough to walk into the abattoir) while in "normal" times they are trucked to Holland for white veal. If all the intended dairy replacements were born female, at least this unpleasantness would stop. The sexing of sperm is certainly high-tech, and yet it is benign.

More broadly, high-tech doesn't have to be geared only to the ruthless demands of commerce. It's just that commerce pays for the technology, and whoever does the paying sets the targets. But high-tech could be of most use to the poorest people. Village India runs on cattle; Indian cattle are undermined by foot and mouth disease, and genetic engineering might be the best defence against it. The highest of high-tech could make the economy of village India viable. To make such applications possible, without compromising the autonomy of the beneficiaries, is one of the great challenges for the 21st century.

Indeed, the overall task for all of us is to liberate ourselves from high-tech — not to get rid of it as Prince Charles might have us do — and make it civilised. Technology must be wielded with restraint. High-tech in the context of unrestrained commerce equals ugliness. But if high-tech was guided by aesthetics, what might we not achieve?

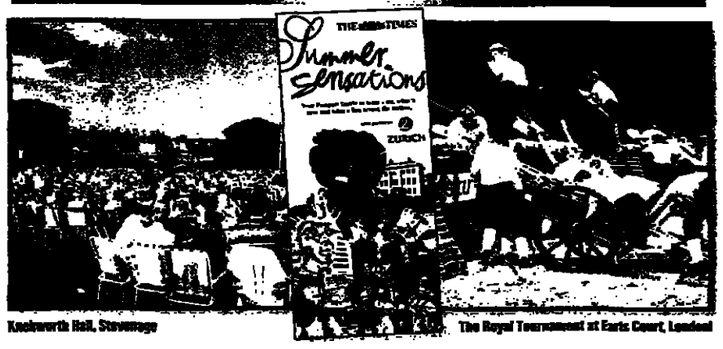
The Royal may not show us what is really going on in modern agriculture, but it does show us what it could be like if only we allowed aesthetics and humanity to creep back in. A campaign for enlightened farming? Now that really would be worthwhile.

● *Colin Tudge is a visiting research fellow of the Centre for Philosophy at the London School of Economics*

READER OFFER THE TIMES

PASSPORT TO A SENSATIONAL SUMMER

FROM DINOSAURS TO DUNGEONS, CASTLES TO CONCERTS, TRAINS TO TEDDIES...



Knebworth Hall, Stevenage — The Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London

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ZURICH

CHANGING TIMES

Don't be too cocky with me

THE FEMALE house sparrow is a drab-looking bird — but a very pugnacious one. This small and streaky, grey-brown creature knows very well how to deal with a cock sparrow whose advances offend her. In a recent issue of *British Birds* magazine, a contributor describes how he watched a hen sparrow looking down at a male who was displaying on a twig below her. As he spread his wings and tail and chirped at her, she leaned forward, tugged at the feathers of his crown, then lifted him until he was dangling from her beak. He hung there as though dead for a few seconds before they flew off.

This observation of the female sparrow's strong-beak tactics inspired the magazine to print some other examples of them — one importunate male bird was even tossed over the female's shoulder.

However, the males can also be pretty violent. Most people have seen a knot of sparrows fly into a bush together, squawking and scrabbling, and wondered what they were up to. Generally, it means that a courting male bird has chased after a female, and other males around have joined in, all trying to peck wildly at her underparts.

Sparrow hooliganism can also extend into the nesting season. They can drive swallows and house martins out of their mud nests and build their own ragged nests on top. If a female loses her mate, she will even invade the nest of another incubating female, peck a hole in her eggs, and try to persuade the other female's mate to pair up with her.

FOR ALL that, house sparrows are surprisingly monogamous, often staying with the same mate all their life. They start to breed early in the year and continue well into the autumn, producing three or more broods a year.

In that case, people may well ask, where have all the sparrows gone? I often get letters asking me that, and it is certainly true that in many places they are much less common than they used to be.

FEATHER REPORT



PETER BROWN

A female's way with suitors

Throughout their history they have followed man and the horse. Where there were horses, there was always the spilt grain they love to feed on. With man, there were rooves to nest in. Thatched rooves, especially, were a hive of sparrows' nests.

Most of the horses disappeared long ago in Britain, and since then other food shortages have hit the sparrow world. Like some of the other seed-eating finches, they have had to search harder both for corn and weed-seeds. Combine harvesters sweep up all the wheat and barley grains in a field, and leave little for the gleaners now. Meanwhile, many of the seed-bearing wild plants are destroyed by herbicides.

Loss of nesting sites has also helped to reduce their numbers. Modern rooves are not so hospitable to sparrows. Cats kill millions of sparrows every year — but then they always have done — and the return of the sparrow hawk must have had some impact on their numbers.

Nevertheless, there are still at least five million pairs of house sparrows nesting in these islands. There is one place where you may find them in the next few weeks — which is where a field of almost ripe corn adjoins a housing estate. They have always flocked down to the fields from the dwellings of man at that time, and many still do. They fly in and out of the hedges, chirping away like troupes of merry holidaymakers, all pugnacity forgotten.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Birders — Look out for adult and young starlings forming large late summer flocks. Twitchers — Black stork, Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire; Isabelline Shrike, Cemlyn, Anglesey; Pacific Golden Plover, Buckenham, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

هكذا من الأصل

Tough lessons in self-sufficiency

A father figure of the environment movement is disillusioned with the green lobby, says John Young



JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY

An expert on farming and self-sufficiency, author John Seymour believes that modern farming methods are pushing the environment to the brink of disaster

It is low tide on the River Barrow, which flows past the bottom of John Seymour's smallholding in Co Wexford, and the banks are dark, glutinous mud. Half a century ago, according to his older neighbours, they were bright sand and shingle where people could sit and picnic.

The likeliest explanation for the change, he believes, is soil erosion from the fields above the river, the result of modern farming practices such as replacing natural fertilisers with chemicals, and ploughing in straight lines up and down the hillside instead of around the contours.

"I would not like to be dogmatic about it," he says. "There may be another explanation. But I do know that with plenty of humus, soil will remain stable. Without it, it will tend to wash away. I talk to the local farmers and they agree with me and say they know what they are doing is wrong, but they can't afford to go back to the old ways."

Mr Seymour, who will be 84 in June, is one of the father figures of the modern environmental movement. His dozen or so books include *The Complete Book of Self-Sufficiency*, published in 1975 and since translated into several languages. For the past 18 years he has been practising what he preaches in his adopted Ireland. He has little time, however, for the so-called "green lobby".

"It seems to be mainly townies whose hearts are in the right place, who know there is something wrong and want to put it right," he says. "But they don't understand farmers and, not surprisingly, the farmers say they don't know what they are talking about."

That is not something one could say of Mr Seymour. Not only has he spent more than half his life as a farmer, he has studied agriculture in Europe, Asia, North America and Africa, and presented films for the BBC on soil erosion and desertification in Kansas, East Africa and Iraq.

A farmer maybe, but a good deal else besides. Born in England of American parents, he was sent to school in Switzerland and from there to agricultural college. With Europe gripped by depression in the 1930s, he set off for Africa, where the largely empty and hostile territory of what is now Namibia was being opened up for development.

"We had to shoot the lions to stop them eating our cattle," he recalls. "It was an interesting life, but I got fed up with the desert so I got a job on a fishing boat. We used to go out for a month at a time catching snoek on lines."

When that, too, palled he went to work in a copper mine in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) but yearned for fresh air and sunshine. Taken on by the government veterinary service, he participated in one of the earliest game surveys in the Luangwa Valley. When war broke out he joined the King's African Rifles, fought in the Ethiopian campaign and then for three years in Burma. On returning to England he worked briefly for the Ministry of Agriculture, finding employment for prisoners-of-war.

> "A farmer himself, Mr Seymour says the greens don't understand farmers"

Partly to relieve the tedium he began writing. An overland trip to India produced two books and a radio series for the BBC, followed by a travelogue, *One Man's Africa*. After getting married he took on the tenancy of a five-acre smallholding where he began his experiments in self-sufficiency.

"It was too small to grow wheat, but we produced all our own beef, lamb, pork, butter, milk and vegetables," he says. "We couldn't afford to buy anywhere in Suffolk, so we moved to Pembrokeshire, where we bought a 72-acre farm. We were there for 17 years. In the end I gave it to my children and moved here to Ireland 18 years ago."

In the early 1990s his friend Will Sutherland proposed that they should set up a "school for self-sufficiency", running courses for visitors keen to rediscover traditional farming skills. Mr Sutherland is another trenchant critic of "agribusiness" and has designed and built his own 18-hole golf course in Bedfordshire, planting 40,000 trees and eschewing the use of all chemicals — not even weedkillers on the greens.

The three-acre Irish smallholding has pigs, sheep, a dairy cow, hens, ducks and geese, and produces fruit, vegetables, including potatoes and fodder beet. All the plant and animal waste is returned to the land as manure, and much of the tilling and fertilising is performed by the pigs as they are rotated from one plot to another. "Students" have come from as far as Germany, Austria, America and South Africa, and have written enthusiastically of their experiences.

In most parts of the world agriculture has gone horribly wrong, Mr Seymour says. Monoculture and overspecialisation have degraded the land and contributed to boredom and frustration among farmers. Huge quantities of food are transported across the world in the name of economies of scale, when the aim should be to increase national self-sufficiency.

In an industrialised and largely urban society, Mr Seymour's hankering for the days when people baked their own bread and brewed their own beer can be dismissed as a pipe dream. But many of the trends he deplores could still be reversed. In the American Midwest, by denuding the grasslands of cattle, buffalo and other animals which once enriched them, and ploughing to grow wheat, farmers are accelerating the dustbowl which will eventually cost them their living.

His most vehement antagonism is towards the agrochemical companies, and he recently persuaded local farmers to boycott a demonstration of a new product. "The world is increasingly being run by aggressive multinationals which will stop at nothing in their pursuit of profit," he says. "We are now faced with genetically altered crops which could lead to unimaginable disaster."

He concedes there are a few hopeful signs, such as the interest in organic farming and the desire to plant more trees. The recent fires in Brazil and South-East Asia will, he hopes, at least have made the world aware of the suicidal effects of destroying forests, though it remains to be seen whether action will be taken. Mr Seymour is an advocate of smallness — smallholdings, small businesses, small governments, small countries. Denmark, Holland, Finland, Norway and especially Ireland are, he thinks, among the most congenial countries in which to live.

"But even here in Ireland the pollution is alarming. I drove to see my daughter in Co Clare recently and stopped at every trout stream on the way to ask if there were any fish. The answer was always the same: 'It used to be full of them but not any more'."

A VET WRITES

Q Jamie, my five-year-old, has a pet snail. He keeps it in an empty plastic margarine box with holes in the lid and feeds it lettuce. Should it be having anything else and how do we sex a snail? (Jamie wants to christen it.)

A Snails will eat most vegetables, so when lettuce gets expensive, apple (or peelings), cabbage and carrot are suitable substitutes. Remove any uneaten food before it becomes stale and mouldy. Snails like moist conditions, so damp soil and a stone to snooze under would be appreciated. Snail shells are made of calcium, so cuttlefish, eggshell or a bit of bone should be available to supply this essential mineral. Snails are hermaphrodites. They mate before laying eggs, but either partner can be father or mother. So Sam or Susie would be equally correct.

Q My nine-year-old Airedale bitch, Harriet, has had hormone injections to stop her coming into season every five months for the past six years. Now she is growing older, is it necessary to continue with these? Do bitches have a menopause and, if so, when?

A Most bitches continue to come into season and can conceive until extreme old age. Seasons may become irregular and less frequent late in life. Harriet is only just past middle age. I am sure she will come into heat before long. When she does, it is possible to inject her then and cut the season short. Don't just stop the injections and do nothing. She is not too old to be spayed. That would solve the problem for the rest of her life and cost little more than four more years of injections.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to the Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

Don't bark at me, I'm a psychologist

Unruly pets are causing owners to ask for help on the couch, says Jonathan Green





REX

Pet behaviour counsellor Emma Magnus, left, says it is important to understand the pack instinct. "It is easy to give dogs the wrong message about who is boss"

Ann and John Murphy face their counsellor with increasing exasperation as they recount their problems. Taking sidelong glances at each other, the couple's resentments spill out. "He takes out his frustrations on me," complains Ann.

"He is making me ill — driving me up the wall, in fact," John sighs, turning towards the source of his anguish.

For it is Ben, a one-year-old poodle, who is on the psychologist's couch today — not his distraught owners. He sits on his haunches, giving us all a nonchalant gaze between yawns during the proceedings. We are in a Suffolk veterinary consulting room as Emma Magnus, a pet behaviour counsellor, nods while hearing of the distress Ben is causing his owners.

Ann reads out a list of grievances. Last week he nipped the gardener on the bottom. Only this morning he chased Leo the cat down the garden before rushing into the house, stealing all the tea bags and hiding them upstairs. The other week he ate the family's supper off the stove. He regularly takes the TV remote control, causing uproar as the family try to watch television. As a consequence, everything in the house is placed high out of his reach.

But Ben is not only a compulsive thief. "He even kept trying to mount me in frustration," says Ann.

These high jinks led to Ben's recent castration, but all to no avail. His rebellion continued unchecked. "I have had dogs all my life but never one like this," says Ann.

The Murphys are here to see how they can remedy Ben's antisocial behaviour. They are among a growing number of pet owners seeking pet behaviour counsellors to mend the dysfunctional behaviour of their animals.

Problem pets in the 1980s faced the harsh, school-marmish tones of Barbara Woodhouse. In the 1990s, dogs like Ben are emotionally dissected on the psychologist's couch.

Last year, 1,321 animals were referred to pet behaviour counsellors. "Ten years ago, people would have thought it was odd and wacky, and not to be taken seriously," says Pauline Appleby, of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors. The organisation was founded in 1989 and its membership is growing rapidly. "Now if you take your animal to a vet and he refers you to a pet psychologist, people think it is perfectly normal."

Ted Chandler, president of the British Veterinary Association, agrees. "It is a growing specialisation," he says.

Today, Ms Magnus also sees Elsa, a German shepherd who is here after snapping at the vet and showing aggression towards people. The breed is the one most commonly referred to pet behaviour counsellors. The most prevalent problem among all dogs is aggression towards people, which accounted for 28 per cent of cases last year.

Elsa pads into the consulting room snarling and barking. During the session she jumps up and plants her front paws on my chest. My pulse skips a beat as Elsa opens her jaws. Mercifully, she merely licks my face.

Yet Ms Magnus's work is more diverse than just dogs. Cats are the second most preferred pet in Britain, but she has also dealt with sexually frustrated rabbits. Then there was the hamster which was determined to escape from its cage. "The answer was more exercise on a wheel and putting food on a stick so it had to work to eat," she explains. Likewise, the African grey parrot which pulled all its feathers out. He was bored and simply needed more toys and to be let out of his cage more often.

The nub of canine psychology, though, is understanding the pack instinct — who becomes top dog. Problems arise when dogs challenge their human owners for "alpha male or female status".

"They are pack animals and it is easy to give them the wrong message about who is boss," Ms Magnus says. In the wild, dominant dogs lead the pack, eat first and sleep where they want. Therefore owners must never let their dogs walk through doors first and must never give them titbits of food from the table. Nor should they let their pets sleep on the furniture. Even in games of tug-of-war, never let the dog win. It shows that he or she is stronger than you.

Ms Magnus claims an 85 per cent success rate. She charges £50-£60 for a consultation, a check-up after a month and continuing advice on the telephone. One case particularly saddened her. It involved a German shepherd which had been reared on its own in a kennel and was completely unused to human company. Its owners were in the middle of a divorce and the husband beat it. "It couldn't even come in the same room as me," she says. "I tried working with it, but it was useless. After police warnings, I could only recommend that it was put to sleep."

Elsa, the other German shepherd, it transpires, was also kept in a shed at the back of a pet shop as a puppy and is not used to human company. Her case holds far more hope, though. She has "fear aggression". Her worried owners are told to show her who is dominant and the people who she dislikes most must toss her treats — first from a distance. "She needs a lot of work and consistency, but everything should be fine," says Ms Magnus.

Ben the poodle is an attention-seeker. Ms Magnus's diagnosis is that he steals things like the TV remote control to gain maximum attention. A strict and dynamic assertiveness regime is in order, she says. The programme is to start with a bang. A child's spring-loaded firing cap is to be used to booby trap forbidden food. The Murphys are also told to ignore his stealing — as far as possible. But when he does steal they should take his toys and play with them without involving him. "Look as though you are having a really good time with them," counsels Ms Magnus. "He will be more intrigued by that and give up what he has taken without a confrontation with you."

She recommends he must work to get his food as he would in the wild. His supper is to be scattered on the lawn. And finally, Ben is to be ignored when he pesters the family for attention. At the end of the session the Murphys are delighted. Ben, though, is forlorn. The couple ignore him pawing them for attention on the way out.

"If we can lead a normal life it will be wonderful," says Ann. For Ben, not realising what lies ahead, life will never be the same again.

● *Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors: 01386 751151*

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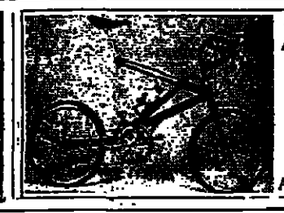
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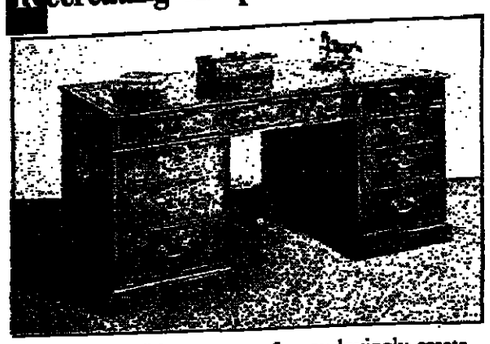
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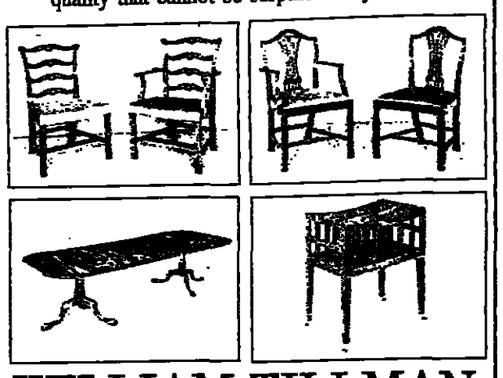
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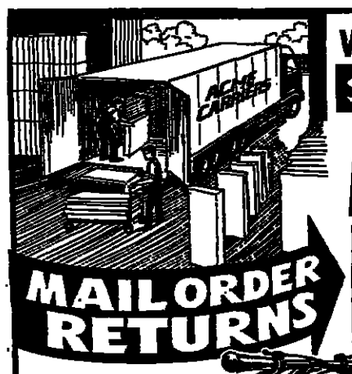
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This week's challenge: being pretentious. **David Bowker** changes his name to rise to the occasion

Getting pseud for my efforts

Last Sunday, I suffered a panic attack and had to calm my nerves with a cup of camomile tea and a Jacques Brel record. The reason? Writer's block. Normally, I sit down at my desk, never knowing what to write, and in no time at all, my unconscious mind emits a gushing spring of creativity. But last Sunday, my unconscious lived up to its name. I couldn't write a dicky-bird.

Then it occurred to me that perhaps my unconscious was trying to tell me something. Perhaps its gift to me that day was not words, but the unbearable whiteness of paper. For the space of a paragraph, allow me to share the beauty of this experience with you.

There. Wasn't that uplifting?

On Monday, I decided to change my name from David Bowker to Daniel Arzo-Boucher. It suits me, n'est pas? The name Bowker is actually derived from the French word *boucher* meaning "butcher", so this wasn't as pretentious as it sounds. I chose Daniel because working with journalists is rather like being in a den full of semi-literate lions. Arzo is just an amusing word that I made up. I think it describes me perfectly.

On Tuesday afternoon I sat down to write this column. Before I knew what was happening, I, or rather my unconscious, had penned a 30-page philosophical treatise called *Life is for the Living*. The premise for this profound work is that we can't do much when we're dead, ergo the secret of living a long and active life is to avoid death for as long as possible. Furthermore, I contend that there is good and bad in all of us, two wrongs don't make a right and it never rains but it pours. If this all sounds a bit obvious, it is probably because you are not clever enough to understand the thought processes of really brainy people like myself.

That evening, I read *Pseud's Corner* in *Private Eye* and failed to see why any of the extracts had been included. Then I photocopied a letter from the Saturday Editor of *The Times*, in which he said I was "the greatest columnist since Mencken" and sent it to all my colleagues with this disclaimer: "Perhaps I shouldn't 'Mencken' this. But wasn't it kind of him?" (Incidentally, who is Mencken when he's at home?)

SEVEN LONG DAYS



On Wednesday, I watched a performance artist and didn't laugh once. To the strains of *Moon River* by Andy Williams, a naked man shone a torch at seven eggs in egg cups. Then he smashed all the eggs and barked like a dog. I found this profoundly moving.

Reminded of the positively Damascan effect that great art has on the psyche, I became a performance artist for a day. My performance involved wandering around Covent Garden asking complete strangers to direct me to Liquorice Street. Some obliged, even though Liquorice Street doesn't exist. What started out as a light-hearted piece on the nature of space became a trenchant dialogue on the themes of madness and alienation.

Friday was a rest day. After analysing our dreams over breakfast, my wife and I composed the following haiku: *In the ocean's roar/small children are heard/calling for Captain BirdsEye*. Then we lay on our backs while our own small child poured yoghurt over us. We allow him complete freedom of expression.

On Friday night, we had friends round for dinner, so I removed all the James Bond books from the shelves and replaced them with serious works of literature. Then I put on my wife's cardigan and played a blank tape on the stereo.

As an aperitif, I served rosé, with the words: "Unfashionable, I know. That's precisely what I like about it." On the table, I placed a memoir by Andrea Ashworth called *Once in a House on Fire*, which I was humble enough to choose the title for. When my friends arrived, I thrust the volume under their noses and said: "Yes, Andrea is a research fellow at Oxford. Whenever people at Oxford and Cambridge need titles for books, they call me. Isn't that extraordinary?"

DANIEL ARZO-BOUCHER



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

JULY 17-19

Crop Circle Celebration Weekend. At Alton Barnes, near Pewsey, Wilts. Cost for two days, £45. Accommodation (01672 513989) from £25 per night. B&B. Details from Wiltshire Crop Circle Study Group (013890 860759).

Heretics and Crusaders in the Languedoc. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120, all inclusive.

Punting weekend on the River Cherwell at Oxford, from the Studley Priory Hotel (01865 351613). Price, all inclusive, £185 per head for two nights, including punting.

Mountain biking in the Trossachs, with Trossach Backpackers of Callander (01877 331200). Accommodation from £10 per night, B&B, cycle hire from £15 per weekend. Other activities available.

Silversmithing: Botanical illustration: Gardening — colour in the garden. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price per course, including full-board accommodation, £156.

The World Wide Web for business or pleasure: Golf for beginners. At the Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Web £91, golf £122.

In search of the red kite: Water plants. At the Field Studies Council, Preston Montford Centre, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Price £107 residential, £85 non-residential.

Watercolours: Meditation to quieten the mind. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price £70, all inclusive.

Butterflies and moths: Improve your botany: Improve your oil painting. At the Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). £140 residential, £110 non-residential.

Out and about with a sketchbook: Parchment craft. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). Price per course £88, all inclusive.

Computers — using Serif Page plus: Pastels for beginners: Small frame tapestry weaving: Gilbert White's *Natural History*: Bridge for improvers. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £149 residential, £113 non-residential.

JULY 24-26

Writing short stories for magazines. At the Indian King Art Centre, Camelford, Cornwall (01840 212111). Price fully inclusive, £145.

Have a go at caving. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). Price £120 residential, £90 non-residential, including instruction.

Off-shore cruising: Sea kayaking for improvers: Windsurfing. At the Plas Menai National Watersports Centre, Daernafon, Gwynedd, North Wales (01248 670964). Prices from £104, including full board.



NHPA

Test your fondness for beetles at the Field Studies Council Centre in Shrewsbury at the start of August

Basic botany for gardeners: Identifying ferns: Wild plants and wild places — Shropshire's secret garden: Understanding scenery in the South Shropshire hills. At the Preston Mount Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Price per course, from £105 residential, and £75 non-residential.

Jane Austen and Mrs Gaskell: *King Lear* — practical reading and dramatising. At Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire (01525 292901). Price per course, £99 residential.

Conversational French. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Price per course, £70 all inclusive.

Close harmony in barbershop singing: A computer course: Flowers in watercolour and gouache. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Price from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Writing — a practical guide: Découpage: China painting. At Pendrell Hall College, Codsall Wood, Wolverhampton, Staffs (01902 434112). Price per course from £86 residential, £60 non-residential.

Look out for mammals: Butterflies and moths: Nocturnal natural history — badgers and bats. At the Field Studies Council Centre, Slapton Ley, Kingsbridge, Devon (01548 580466). From £105 residential, £79 non-residential.

Bedfordshire lace: Design in lacemaking: Studying old lace: Needle lace. At Knuston Hall Residential College, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). From £92.

Weekend canoeing courses. At the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Fawley, Hants (01703 892077). Price per weekend, adults £120, under-18s £85, full board.

JULY 31-AUG 2

Historic gardens of Bath: Stonehenge revisited. At the Urchfont Manor College, Devizes, Wilts (01380 840495). Prices from £104.

Diving the Skomer marine reserve and the Pembrokeshire Islands. From the Field Studies Centre, Dale Fort, Haverfordwest (01646 636205). Price £205 residential, £160 non-residential.

Summer bird-watching: Making your camera work for you. At the Field Studies Council Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price per course £140 residential, £110 non-residential.

An inordinate fondness for beetles: Look out for mammals: Roman Shropshire. At the Field Studies Council Centre, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Prices from £90-£115 residential, and £50-£85 non-residential.

Making sense of modern art: The environmental heritage of Bedfordshire. At the Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525 292901). Price, £99 residential.

Life and art in 18th-century England: Tai Chi Chuan: A painting course. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, near Pulborough, Sussex (01798 865306). From £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Surfing courses. At the YHA Centre, Tryarnon Bay, Cornwall (01841 520322). Price £90, inclusive of full-board accommodation and tuition.

Wild flowers of the South Tyne: On the newly opened South Tyne trail. At the YHA Centre, Alston, Cumbria (01434 381509). Price £70.

Outdoor survival weekends in the Brecon Beacons. At the Breakaway Survival School, Hereford (01432 267097). Price, £60.

To Win a War?: The German offensives on the Western Front in the spring and summer of 1918 — an 80th anniversary appraisal. At the University of Birmingham, Dept of Continuing Studies, Edgbaston (0121-414 5615). Price £125.

Lacemaking for beginners: Watercolours for beginners. At the Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). Price, £92.

The Road to Santiago and Muslim Spain: 19th-century writing: Archaeological techniques for local historians: The symphonic poem in theory and practice. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120.

Canoe trips in the Scottish Highlands. Price £135 with Scottish Voyageurs (01651 851215).

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The royal city lays its last Tsar to rest

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THE TIMES
TRAVEL

Those hills are still alive

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Spirited Sydney, a work in progress

Olympic fever is sweeping a city which already knows how to party, says travel editor **Cath Urquhart**



Steve Glynn offers tours of Sydney on his Harley



CATH URQUHART

Some views of the Opera House have been obscured by new development; get a proper look from one of the green and cream ferries chugging around the harbour

CITIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Half an hour by ferry down the Parramatta River, and we have left the centre of Sydney in our wake. The day is bright, sunny and windy, and it matches the optimism of Terry, our guide on the tour of Sydney's Olympic site, who meets us off the ferry at Homebush Bay.

The daily tours of Homebush, west of Sydney, where most events of the 2000 Olympics will take place, have proved a success with both tourists and locals. Already this year some 10,000 people have toured the site, seeing how an area that once housed a tip, an abattoir and a military training ground is being turned into the stage for the greatest sports show on earth.

It is an unlikely tourist attraction because at present there is little more to see than building sites and cranes. You cannot yet get off the bus and explore the stadium, line up alongside the sprinters on your imaginary starting blocks or receive your gold medal on a pretend podium. But the superlatives are already in place.

The Aquatic Centre, where the swimming events will be held and which is already open to the public, is the largest such complex in the world. Overhanging the growing framework of the main stadium, which will seat 110,000, we see one of the world's largest cranes in action: it can lift 2,500 tonnes with a swing of its powerful arm. "You could park four jumbo jets on the floor of that stadium," says Terry. And all the work is due to be completed ahead of deadline, under budget.

The 30 or so members of our tour group seem impressed. Doris and David Ramsey from Yorkshire, visiting their daughter Julie who lives in Sydney, reckon the tour is good value at A$15 (£6). "We won't be here for the Games, so we wanted to see what progress is being made," said Mr Ramsey, 68. The Ramseys lived here for five years in the 1980s, and last visited three years ago. Changes? "Well, in the centre of town there's a lot of building work going on," said Mr Ramsey. A bit of an understatement, that.

There is a huge amount of development going on in Sydney at present, much of it linked to the Olympics — road improvements, a better airport, new hotels. Former model Terry Schwamberg, who recently opened The Medusa, a boutique hotel where I spent several nights, told me she could never have gained permission to convert the late Victorian townhouse into an hotel until recently. It seems that the Olympic spirit has even permeated the darkest recesses of council planning committees.

But you should not be put off visiting Sydney by the building work. Much of this is taking place in the Central Business District, or around the airport, or out at Homebush, away from the main tourist sites.

The most controversial development, and the one most visitors will notice, is at East Circular Quay, just in front of the Opera House, where a row of office and apartment buildings is going up and obscuring views of the city's (and Australia's) most iconic building.

There is, all too late, anger that the government will not buy out the private developers and pull the blocks down. The government suspects that such a move, costing hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money, would lose votes outside Sydney.

But although it is now hard to see the Opera House from the centre of Circular Quay, where the ferries dock, once you find a proper vantage point the new blocks seem less significant.

As all visitors should, I climbed the 200 steps to the top of the southeast pylon of Sydney Harbour Bridge and caught my breath. Here I was high enough to put the city into context: to my right were the cantilevered shells (once memorably described as "copulating turtles") of the Opera House, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in October. Around it, Sydney's cream and green passenger ferries chugged in and out of Circular Quay, while in front of me traffic poured over the Harbour Bridge to the expensive homes and lush, green water's edge of North Sydney.

Some have compared Sydney to San Francisco, Istanbul, Vancouver or other great harboursides cities, but none of these offers the same access to the water that Sydney does. Its harbour is not hidden away, but is the focal point of the city. The rich live by it, everyone can walk in parks alongside it and at weekends, on yachts and surfboards and Jet-skis, Sydneysiders live on it.

Steven East is typical. He moved from Britain to Sydney in 1995 to run the restaurants at the Opera House and now cannot imagine leaving. "Australia is a young person's country," he said, as we dined at the Harbour restaurant, which has a fantastic view of the Harbour Bridge. "Moving here is the best thing I ever did. I miss English pubs, but that's about it. At weekends I crew on a yacht, I go climbing, to the beach . . . it's a great lifestyle." Outside, the harbour lights twinkled. After dinner I went into the smaller auditorium to watch a stunning dance performance of *Salome* and promptly fell asleep. Tip: recover from jet lag before checking out the nightlife.

For a different view of the harbour, I took a tour by Harley-Davidson. It felt a little gimmicky, but nevertheless I found it hard to stop grinning as I hopped on to the back of Steve Glynn's gleaming 1340cc Road King.

Steve, an off-duty policeman, offers rides through Blue Thunder Motorcycle Tours to help cover the costs of running £9,000-worth of imported motorbike. We wove through the centre and out east, stopping to look back at the harbour from Potts Point, Rushcutters Bay, Darling Point and Double Bay (known as Double Pay, thanks to the real estate prices), ending up in Bondi. "I usually take tourists, although I have one local woman who takes a two-hour ride as a way of de-stressing," he said. And what a way to unwind. Driving down Campbell Parade, which backs Bondi Beach, it is hard not to turn heads on a Hog.

After Steve dropped me off, I found a good vantage point on Campbell Parade, the first-floor restaurant balcony at Ravesi's hotel. It was May and winter was drawing in, but it was still warm and every other person was crossing the road in their wetsuit, surfboard under one arm, or skateboarding down the pavement. For lunch I ordered the fish of the day, a perfectly grilled flounder, and the waiter coyly asked if I would like any "chippies" with that, as if using the diminutive would somehow reduce the calorie content. If only it were so easy — for Sydney is a fit city. As Steven East had told me, it is quite usual for city workers to pop to the beach for a surf before heading for their desks.

So it was most frustrating, thinking of the waistline, to find Sydney blessed with an excellent choice of restaurants. Just as Australian wines burst into our consciousness a few years back and are now widely respected, so Australian haute cuisine — typically a fusion of local, Asian and Mediterranean flavours — is taking over from theatre and music as the most talked-about art form in both Sydney and Melbourne. Kangaroo is more likely to share a pan with lime or lemongrass than to be thrown on to the barbie these days; lamb, tuna and emu are getting acquainted with pomegranate, figs, celeriac and ginger instead of tomato ketchup and chips.

The seafood I tried was particularly good, especially at the long-established Rockpool and the new MG Garage restaurants, but simple fish and chips at Doyle's at the Quay — a tourist institution and largely untouched by the fusion cooking phenomenon — was equally impressive.

Soon after I left, Sydney held its first food and wine festival to showcase the emerging food scene, but I was already convinced. I did not have a bad meal, not even a bad course, during my stay, although I got pretty poor service in Wockpool, the upmarket noodle bar and sister to the fancier Rockpool.

Once over the jet lag, it was time to see Sydney by night, so a couple of Australian friends, Helen and Nancy, showed me the way. The exchange rate is now so good for Britons — £1 buys around A$2.5 — that cocktails were the only option, at about A$6-$10 (£2.50-£4). Wine Banc, in the Central Business District, was full of suits and cigars, but things loosened up at Gilligan's on Oxford Street, a bar apparently named after the palm tree on a nearby traffic island (devotees of cult American TV show *Gilligan's Island* will smile at this, but after a couple of cocktails the reference passed me by). Between the blue-bikini-ed waitress and the camp clientele, we met up with friends unexpectedly — what that says about us I am not sure, but it says something for the city's compact and friendly nightlife.

Off to the Grand Pacific Blue Room, where we somehow managed to jump the queue and head upstairs through a screaming throng of dancers for more cocktails . . . apparently the bar is favoured by visiting supermodels,' but by 3am I doubt we would have noticed if Elle McPherson was collecting the glasses.

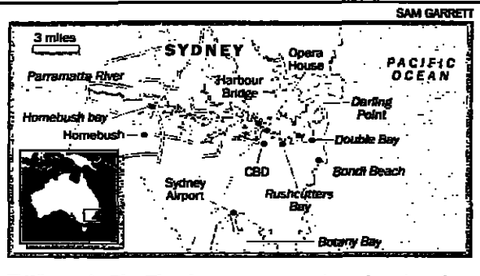
On my last afternoon I went to the arts and crafts market at Paddington. (There are comforting similarities between Sydney's districts and their London namesakes. If I tell you that Paddington was one of the first parts of the inner city to be gentrified; that you would not want to wander around King's Cross at night; and that Oxford Street has some of both the best and the tackiest shops in town, I could be talking about either city.)

Paddo Market, as it is known, combines the best elements of a market such as Camden in North London and leaves out the bad bits: no overwhelming crowds, queues at food stalls were short and there was plenty of excellent handiwork. Many stallholders have gone on to open shops in Sydney, including the city's most talked-about designer, Collette Dinnigan, who has a boutique with ethereal lace-and-nothing dresses a short walk away on William Street.

Unless you are skinny as a rake you do not stand a chance of fitting into them, but the Man and Woman shop next door sells wonderful floaty linen separates. I am sure it does a roaring trade among women who are fed up because they cannot find anything to fit *chez* Collette. And with visitors who cannot resist Sydney's excellent meals.

DOWN UNDER

SAM GARRETT



■ Cath Urquhart travelled with Qantas and the Australian Tourist Commission.

■ Getting there: Qantas (0345 747767) offers twice-daily flights to Sydney from London Heathrow. Return flights start at £695. If your international flight is with Qantas, you can buy the Qantas Boomerang Pass, for internal flights, from £110 per leg.

■ Where to stay: The Park Hyatt Hotel (UK reservations 0845 758 1666, toll free) has a stunning location near the Harbour Bridge, with views of the Opera House. Rooms start at £220 plus tax per night. The Medusa Hotel, 267 Darlinghurst Road (tel 00 612 9331 1000, fax 9380 6901) has stylish, brightly coloured rooms from £68 per night plus tax.

■ Restaurant choice: Rockpool, 107 George Street (9252 1888); MG Garage, 490 Crown Street (9383 9383); Harbour Restaurant at the Opera House (9250 7191).

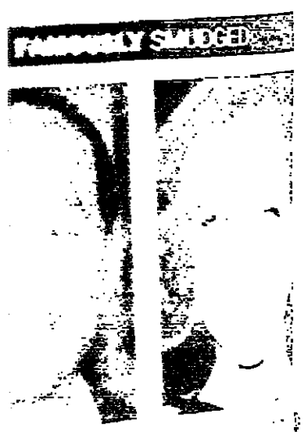
■ What to do: Blue Thunder Motorcycle Tours (tel/fax 9977 7721) offers Harley-Davidson rides for £28 per hour, £44 for two hours. Olympic site tours leave on the hour from Wharf 5, Circular Quay. Tickets for the Olympic Games can be reserved through Sports World (01235 550904).

■ Red tape: Tourist visas are required and are available free from some travel agents and from Qantas when booking a flight, and from the Australian High Commission (0891 600333, 50p per minute).

■ When to go: Sydney's summers (our winters) can be hot and humid, so spring and autumn (September to November and March to May) are the most pleasant times to visit.

■ Reading: *Sydney* (Lonely Planet City Guides, £6.99); *The Lucky Country* by Donald Horne (available in Australia, Penguin A$17.95); *Sydney* by Jan Morris (Penguin, £7.99).

■ Further information: call the Aussie Helpline (0891 070707) or the Aussie Brochure Line (0891 633235, both premium rate lines), or try web site http://www.aussie.net.au

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TONY STONE

The vast Plaza de Armas in Cusco: this great square was once twice its present size and surrounded by Inca palaces and temples. There are 1,400 Inca monuments in the Cusco area, most of which are overlooked by visitors

Far from the madding crowds

Prevented by the poor weather from visiting Machu Picchu, Peru's famous sacred city of the Incas,

Richard Robinson explored a few of Cusco's 'hidden' ruins which are largely ignored by most tourists

I am in the shower, lathered and ready for a hot rinse: I turn on the tap but it is dry. Eyes filled with suds, I flail blindly to the telephone and call reception. "We regret this very much, señor, but there has been a landslide at Machu Picchu. All Cusco is without water. We will send up a bucket."

Machu Picchu — a sacred city between soaring mountain summits and the sky, probably the most fabulous eyeful in the world — is closed today. A hillside, sheared away by storm water, has slipped into the valley, engulfing a hydro-electric power plant, a reservoir and part of the railway line. I am deciphering this from the pages of El Commercio, sitting in the monkish precincts of Plaza Nazarenas. I had stalked up here for refuge, having become uncharacteristically irritated by the attentions of hawkers in Cusco's vast Plaza de Armas.

So tantalisingly close to one of the world's greatest wonders, denied access by the weather, what is one to do?

I located the offices of the National Institute of Culture in a Spanish colonial mansion, where carved verandas overlook a tinkling fountain. A group of students is clamouring around a notice board — it is exam results time and this house also functions as a university faculty. A private chapel almost fills an inner patio from where I am led to the offices of Percy Ardiles, anthropologist and the Institute's director of works. He explains that there are some 1,400 listed monuments in the Cusco area, overlooked by almost all the 400,000 tourists who last year hurried between the great sites of Ollantaytambo, Pisac and, of course, Machu Picchu.

"Tourism is important to us," explains the donnish Señor Percy, "but the scientific aspects of our work are more so." He regrets the way many tour companies in Cusco have geared their itineraries for maximum ease of operation, moving large groups of people between a few well-known sights in a short space of time. "I would like to see smaller groups visiting more sites. They would gain a broader perspective of Andean culture and monuments could be examined in their context — visitors can learn, for instance, about traditional agriculture, herbal medicine, local crafts, music and traditional dishes."

The reality is that many visitors equate Peru with Machu Picchu alone, and a flying visit to the "Lost City" is the sole purpose of their trip, coupled perhaps with a frantic city tour. "Mass tourism impacts heavily on the local culture. Take the musicians you see everywhere in this city — many of them come from Bolivia. Handcrafts are imported from other parts of the Andes and are often manufactured rather than hand-made."

Following one of Señor Percy's leads, I stand in the Sacred Valley of Yucay, an hour's bus ride due north from Cusco to the town of Calca. Two miles from the town, I walked by road to the ruins of the temple of Ticci Viracocha, founder of the Inca nation. A ruined circular building on a mound may have been an observatory: the chroniclers of the 16th century tell how it once contained the gold statue of Viracocha, handed over in tribute to Francisco Pizarro, the conquistador. Just below are the ruined walls of ceremonial buildings and irrigation channels which surround a sacred rock. Along its flank, a water channel is carved, ending at a spout in the form of a great serpent's head.

Despite its tingling sense of mystery and its nearness to the main valley road, the temple remains almost unvisited. Some workers are clearing the undergrowth with machetes. One of them, Chrisologo, points out some of the site's peculiarities: "There is the inverted 'T' decoration — very unusual in this area. Look at these trapezoidal windows — each one is blind. It must have been dark in there."

The Institute has begun clearing the temple prior to a year-long archaeological investigation. So little is known about this place that they are prepared for the unexpected, perhaps pre-Inca origins linked with the older Tiahuanaco culture, and there is some suggestion of a cult of fire and water. When it has uncovered as much information as possible, the Institute plans to build a road to make the site more accessible to tourists.

This is a worthy destination. A drastic cardiogram of a summit scores a jagged line across the sky above; a waterfall spouts from its highest peak in plain contradiction of natural law. Strange things happen in Peru, and this oddly misplaced cascade was the work of those same Incas who channelled water from a distant highland lake to the rim of the Yucay valley, there to irrigate the terraces and the obscure ceremonial site at nearby Calca and the lower valley.

Back in town, I relax at Café Ayllu where coffee and pastries are served to the melodic strains of Vivaldi and Beethoven. Through a window I look out on the Spanish arcades and baroque Catholic churches which embrace the Plaza de Armas. Before the arrival of the Europeans, this great square was twice its present size and surrounded by Inca palaces and temples, built of stone so closely worked that it might have been shaped from clay. Some of this superb masonry survives beneath colonial eaves and peeling stucco walls; most was dismantled and the stones re-used by the cruder Spanish builders. A few runny-nosed entrepreneurs venture into the café, but can offer little to interest those of us who neither smoke cigarettes nor chew gum, and I begin to formulate more plans for my tour of Cusco's unseen sights.

A valley reaches south-east from the city, a bold avenue through magnificent mountains, its flanks scored by ravines and spiked with eucalyptus groves. Far, far ahead is Lake Titicaca on the frontier with Bolivia, but just 30 minutes' drive from Cusco is the Inca complex of Tipón, spread across a mountainside and visited by only a few people, even on a busy day. I could take a taxi but opt instead for one of the frequent local busesat the cost of a few pence.

Cheap, in this case, does not equate with smart, and I endure a trek through Cusco's exhaust-clouded suburbs to board a bus which packs so many passengers that I have to fight to get off. The ruins, I find to my dismay, are hundreds of metres higher, approached by a spiralling road or a steep Inca track.

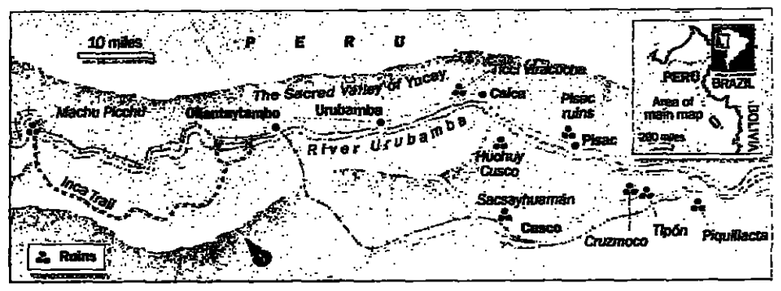
The path leads between mud-walled houses of medieval mien, streets squelching with the ordure of a large resident population of livestock. A paved but overgrown path leads upwards, high above the red-tiled roofs of the village. These worn steps, winding steeply between craggy rocks, were built by the Incas more than 500 years ago and are still serviceable today. The path leads me through a narrow opening in a great defensive wall which hugs the contours like Hadrian's. An exhausting hour above the village and I stand among the first of the Inca ruins, tumbled walls with trapezoidal niches surviving among the tall grass and the wild flowers.

The engineers of Tipón fashioned a succession of plazas with 12 levels of cut stone, retaining walls creating great steps into a broad, suspended basin. The open fourth side looks out across the main valley to the towering slopes opposite. Water rushes along channels, races through conduits, splashes into baths, its sound clearly audible from the high slopes on all sides. Here are the Inca's highest achievements in hydraulic engineering, a celebration of water and its life-giving force. This must have been a self-sustaining community with houses, religious and ceremonial areas and agricultural terraces for maize and potatoes.

In the high ground above the ruins I trace an aqueduct, a deep gutter chiselled into large blocks of hard rock, now badly disjointed and overgrown. It follows the contour to another ruin, an eminence of fine stone buildings on a rock spur, with magnificent mountain views. This might not be Machu Picchu, but it is pretty grand and there are no milling crowds to detract from the magnificent natural prospect. Surprisingly, the aqueduct continues, a chute now running along the centre of a broad pavement which rises up into the mountain in a series of steep upward curves.

Had I the time and the energy to follow this tantalising road I would eventually reach a fortress site called Pucar and, at 4,200 metres, the rock petroglyphs of Cruzmoco. I had underestimated the extent and the beauty of Tipón and could do justice only to its immediate surroundings. Cruzmoco, Pikillacta, Huchuy Cusco and a dozen other obscure sites will have to wait for another day.

CUSCO FILE



■ Getting there: Flights to Cusco with Avianca to Lima, and AeroPeru onwards, start at £638 in September, via Bogota and Lima. Summer prices start at £821 with Continental Airlines via Houston and Lima. American Airlines flights start at £832 via New York and Lima. All these flights are bookable through Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108).

■ When to go: The dry season, when days are warm and nights are cold, lasts from April to October. The rest of the year is warmer but rainfall is often heavy and prolonged, with short sunny spells in between.
Rainfall also causes frequent landslips — as the author discovered when attempting to reach Machu Picchu in February. The rail line from Cusco has since reopened and the site is accessible. Toilets are also being built on the Inca hiking trail to Machu Picchu.

■ Red tape: British citizens do not need a visa. Money is best carried in dollar traveller's cheques and cash. The language is Spanish; some English is spoken in hotels and travel agents.

■ Accommodation: Hotel Monasterio (005) 84 241777) is the top choice, a colonial patio hotel on a small, quiet square near the centre of Cusco — £104 for a double. For a smaller, family-run alternative with rooms opening on to a paved colonial courtyard, Los Marqueses (232512) is £22 per double, B&B.

■ Reading: Try to find *Exploring Cuzco* by Peter Frost (Bradt, out of print) which deals with many lesser-known and classic sites of the area. *Peru Handbook* by Alan Murphy (Footprint, £10.99) is a detailed guide, including street maps. Also useful is *Peru* (Rough Guides, £10.99).



A Cusco woman holds a magnificent bunch of flowers

WORLD PICTURES



Bustling city market where locals gossip and shop



RICHARD ROBINSON

Tipón has a splendid series of Inca plazas and aqueducts

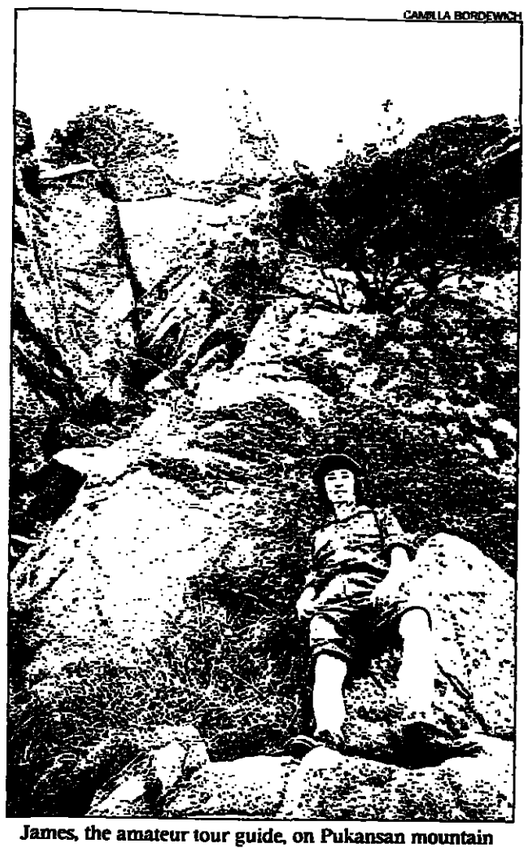


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As the World Cup ends, **Camilla Bordewich** explores South Korea, the host country in 2002

Meeting Asia's friendliest souls

CAMILLA BORDEWICH



James, the amateur tour guide, on Pukansan mountain

CATH URQUHART



The entrance gate to the magnificent Buddhist Pulguksa temple, built in AD528 and rebuilt in 1970. It is Korea's most famous temple complex and attracts thousands of visitors

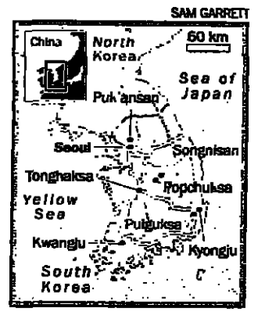
Visiting South Korea was something of an accident. I was on a nine-month round-the-world backpacking trip with my travelling companion, Ben, and the only sensible way of linking Honolulu and Kathmandu involved a stop-over in Seoul.

Out of curiosity, we checked our guidebooks to see what South Korea — which will be co-hosting the 2002 World Cup along with Japan — had to offer. It sounded fascinating: brimful of temples and mountains and populated by some of the friendliest people in the world. Going against the advice of fellow backpackers — who disparagingly wrote it off as an expensive and dull industrial country — we decided to delay our onward journey to Kathmandu to stay for a couple of weeks.

Nevertheless, as we landed at Seoul's Kimpo airport, panic set in. A monsoon was brewing and every breath was like a lungful of hot, thick soup. The language is so alien that I could not even say "hello" despite hours of practice, let alone contend with the han'gul alphabet. We felt terribly isolated in a strange culture after Honolulu's Burger Kings and Pizza Huts.

However, on the subway train into central Seoul, where we hoped to stay at a cheap hotel mentioned in a guidebook, we were soon surrounded by English-speaking locals and bombarded with seemingly impertinent questions: Where are you from? What are you doing? How old are you? Are you married? They were mystified that we were unmarried and could not understand why we were so scruffy: most foreign visitors are business people wearing suits, or Japanese golfers attracted by the cheap green fees. They could not believe we were simply tourists, but the fact that we were made them swell with pride. As we pulled into Seoul, we were already beginning to feel more relaxed. The guidebook was right — the people *are* friendly.

SAM GARRETT



One of the men on the subway took it upon himself to be our guide and led us to our yogwan, a small family-run hotel. It was in Insadonggil — the artists' quarter, full of ramshackle shops displaying paintbrushes and paper fans in the windows. The building was decrepit — a traditional structure with curved roofs, one of the few to survive the devastation of the Korean War. For £10 we got a yo, a Korean sleeping mat, in a paper-screened room. It had a central courtyard in which we found a small community of miserable Westerners, who were in Seoul to teach English. None of them had ever ventured outside the city — they were there to earn money and nothing else.

The helpful man from the train suggested we had a drink at his favourite bar in the financial district. Help, we thought — we had jet lag, were on a backpacker's budget and this man seemed to feel we owed him a favour.

But soon we warmed to our new friend, whose real name was Lee but who preferred to be called James. He whisked us away before we had a chance to chat to the teachers and we soon found ourselves in a bar drinking lagers. He told us he wanted to look after us during our stay as he had felt very lonely when no one befriended him when he had studied for a year in the United States. We came to trust him and felt rather guilty about all the lost tourists we had ignored in London.

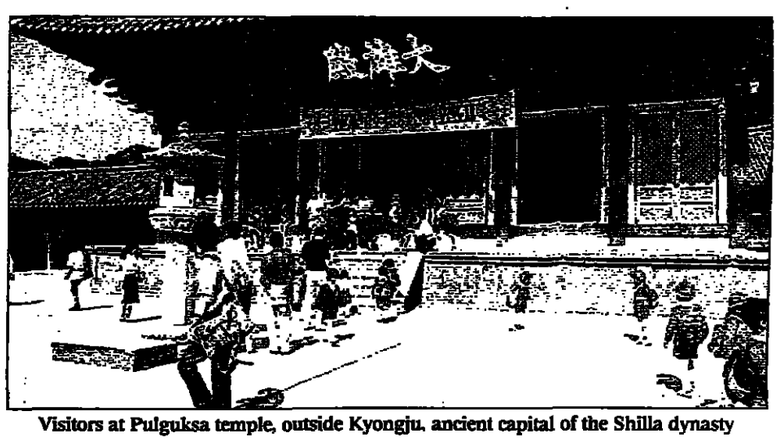
The following day, James took us mountaineering up Puk'ansan, a beautiful series of peaks on the northern edge of Seoul. Every weekend thousands of local people head up here in plus-fours, laden with enough ropes and ice axes to ascend Everest. Every path was jammed with people, rich and poor, young and old, singing and drinking their way to the peaks. The views and clean air seemed almost secondary to this jovial spirit — no one needed prompting to give us an unceremonious shove when we got stuck on a sheer rock face.

After the day's climbing, James's friend — who called himself Dragon — treated us to a feast of octopus omelette, acorn jelly on semolina, and kimchi (pickled cabbage, a national dish) at a restaurant. This was washed down with makkoli, a milky rice wine served from a tea pot, and soju, a potato vodka. As a woman I was not expected to drink much, but Ben was fed until he reached a state of oblivion. I copied James's girlfriend by giggling at appropriate moments and making polite conversation: Confucianism leaves little room for feminism.

The next day we visited Kyongbokkung, the former royal palace. In the heart of the pollution and chaos of Seoul, it consists of 40 silent acres of gardens and pavilions, pagodas and lakes. The architecture is typically oriental, but what makes it stand out from any Japanese or Chinese palace or temple is the paintwork. The beams, ceilings and eaves are painted with intricate patterns in a myriad of colours, most notably fuchsia pinks and malachite greens. Every building is built according to the rules of feng shui, and you can see the perfect alignment of the roofs with the distant mountains.

The next morning found us at Seoul's tourist information centre, which is perfectly equipped with maps, models, computers and a library — the only thing missing is the tourists. The man behind the counter was not at all bothered. All he seemed to care about was football: leaning back and putting his feet on the desk, he sighed, "Bobby Charlton". He, like all Koreans, is incredibly proud to be co-hosting the World Cup in 2002. The success of the 1988 Seoul Olympics is still in evidence, with gleaming stadiums and parks full of dedicated sportsmen and women (and, less aptly, a top selling cigarette brand named 88).

We decided to catch a coach to Kyeryongsan National Park, three hours' drive through paddy fields south of Seoul. Arriving late in the afternoon, we pitched our tent and soon bumped into students from Kyongju University Cinema Club. They prepared an elaborate dish over their camping stove: lettuce leaves filled with beef, garlic cloves, kimchi and chilli paste, all wrapped into a little ball and popped in your mouth. These students were fairly wild for Korea: they were into the unlikely combination of heavy metal music and *Trainspotting* (all of them proudly displaying Ewan MacGregor crew cuts). South Korea is known for the radicalism of its students, who have led aggressive protests against government corruption, but I was taken aback by the sexism displayed by the eldest of the allegedly politically aware students. He complained about women smoking and drinking, and was astounded when Ben started to wash up: "Always in Korea, all men of all ages make the women do the washing," he began. This was a bit too much for me. "*Not* in Britain," I countered sharply. Ben smirked.



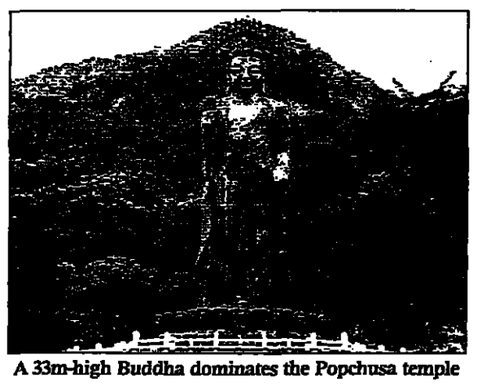
Visitors at Pulguksa temple, outside Kyongju, ancient capital of the Shilla dynasty

Over the next few days there were torrential monsoon rains, but whenever there was a break we would charge into the woods to see the beautiful temple of Tonghaksa, the remote nunneries and hermitages. Unlike other world religions, Buddhist monasteries are fuller than ever in Korea.

Songnisan was next on our itinerary; a National Park which houses one of Korea's most important Buddhist temples, Popchusa. The temple is a masterpiece of feng shui and is built at the confluence of three rivers between two "lucky" mountains. It is dominated by a 33m statue of Buddha, which extends well above the roof of a five-storey pagoda. Following a steep path for two miles, we came across a newly rebuilt hermitage housing 30 or so nuns. We had merely come to look around, but with typical Korean charm we were whisked inside and given gloriously cold watermelon and a silent tour of the kitchens by a wizened nun who spoke no English.

Korea's biggest tourist attraction is the ancient city of Kyongju, former capital of the Shilla dynasty. Here the trappings of tourism are all around — stalls selling tat, funfairs, honeymooners and golf courses. All this has sprung up around the remarkable archaeological finds in the burial mounds of the Shilla kings. Kyongju's other big draw is Pulguksa, Korea's most famous temple complex. In a bid to retain the original painting the temple has been left untouched. We delved into the ancient pleasure gardens and ruined fortresses before returning to Seoul.

Looking back, we had got by on about £20 a day each, survived the monsoons and made a lot of new friends. We were very glad to have ignored the warnings of old backpacking hands and try out one of Asia's least visited — and most beautiful — countries.



A 33m-high Buddha dominates the Popchusa temple

SOUTH KOREA FACT FILE

- Getting there: Korean Air (call toll free on 00 800 0656 2001) has return non-stop flights from Heathrow to Seoul from £399 — the journey takes about 11 hours. Trailfinders (0171-938 3366) can offer return flights from Heathrow and a choice of regional airports to Seoul from £329 — it can also organise round-the-world trips with stop-offs in several countries.
- Tour operators: Premier Holidays (01223 516252), Silk Steps (0117-940 2800), Far East Getaways (0161-945 4321), Dream Journeys (01784 449832).
- Red tape: British passport holders can visit for up to 90 days without a visa.
- Medical requirements: Tetanus, polio and hepatitis A & B injections are recommended.
- Best time to go: March to June and September to November are the best months, with the least amount of rainfall and average temperatures of 18-25C. The monsoon season is in July and August, when it is hot and humid.
- Reading: *Korea* (Lonely Planet, £8.95); *Korea: A walk through the land of miracles* by Simon Winchester (Grafton), out of print, but available from libraries.
- Further information: Korean National Tourism Corporation (0171-409 2100) will provide free brochures, maps and details of buses and trains in South Korea.

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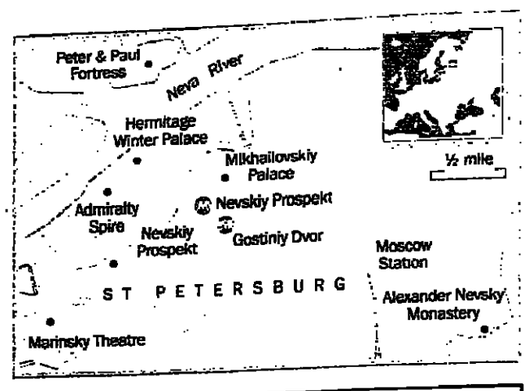
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Fairy-tale palaces for the Tsar-struck



The Church of the Resurrection overlooks Nevskiy Prospekt — the grand avenue which is home to St Petersburg's best shops, cafés and restaurants



OUT AND ABOUT IN ST PETERSBURG

■ Chloe Bryan-Brown travelled with Regent Holidays and SAS Scandinavian Airlines.

■ Getting there: Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) has four nights' B&B in St Petersburg for £462 until October 31, including flights from Gatwick, Heathrow or Manchester, transfers, hotel accommodation and a private sightseeing tour. SAS (0845 6072 7727) offers return flights via Copenhagen from £425.60.

■ Red tape: Visas from the Russian Embassy in London (5-6 Kensington Gardens, 0891 171271, premium rate), cost £10. Alternatively many tour operators will organise a visa for between £20 and £40.

■ Medical requirements: No inoculations required. Visitors advised to drink bottled water.

■ Money: US dollar traveller's cheques are the easiest way to carry money and can be exchanged at banks, exchange bureaux and most hotels; all cash transactions must be in roubles. Changing currency on the black market is risky. Change money at a bank or bureau each day as required rather than carrying wads of roubles.

■ Getting around: The St Petersburg metro is safe and easy to use. You can buy one-journey tokens for one-and-a-half roubles each from kiosks. Visitors can hire guides and interpreters, obtain information and arrange theatre tickets and private cars from hotel service desks.



Street signs in Cyrillic

■ Further information: There is no longer a Russian tourist board, but operators such as the former state-run Intourist are well-informed (0171-538 8600). The English-language weekly *The St Petersburg Times* (its website is: www.times.spb.ru) is available free in most hotels; it contains listings and pull-out city map.

■ Reading: *St Petersburg* (Rough Guides, £9.99), *St Petersburg City Guide* (Lonely Planet Publications, £6.95) and *Russian Phrasebook: A Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet Publications, £3.50).

As the last Tsar returns home, St Petersburg is now keen to show off its rich, romantic and very royal history, says **Chloe Bryan-Brown**

Next Saturday, if all goes to plan, the remains of the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, will be brought to the great Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg and laid to rest in the cathedral. His burial — among the white marble tombs of his forefathers, beneath chandeliers and gilding and the watchful eyes of the saints whose images adorn the iconostasis — will be highly symbolic, not only for the royal representatives scheduled to attend, but also for ordinary Russians.

During the communist years, mystery shrouded the deaths of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife, children and servants — who were assassinated by Bolshevik guards in 1918. The Communist Party did not want details of the killings to come out as Nicholas stayed popular among many Russians, some of whom considered him a martyr figure.

But the recent discovery of his remains — authenticated by DNA analysis — has forced Russia to take another look at its pre-communist past. The burial is likely to be the focus of a national reassessment of Russian history and tradition: a chance to look at where the nation stands after its 70-odd years under communism.

St Petersburg's tourism authorities hope to use the big event to draw international attention to the city — so often overshadowed by Moscow, Russia's capital — and lure more foreign visitors. It is promoting the fact that it is the last resting place of the tsars and also highlighting the city's other attractions — for example, the incredible art collection at the Hermitage and its many fairy-tale palaces.

On my visit earlier this summer, my first stop was, aptly enough, the Peter and Paul Fortress. It was the first important settlement in St Petersburg and the core around which the city was eventually formed; built in 1703, under the orders of Peter the Great to safeguard Russia's outlet to the Gulf of Finland. I had travelled to St Petersburg on my own, and for most of my daytime sightseeing during the week I was accompanied by Marina, a guide arranged through my tour operators.

The Peter and Paul Fortress has six impressive bastions and 4ft-thick walls. It has a European aspect which gives a clue to the aspirations of the city founders, but its gloomy interior and terrible prison remind you that while the tsars were largely responsible for the city's beautiful architecture they were also capable of great cruelty. Marina was not surprised when we came across a middle-aged American couple who were visibly upset to have found the cell where the man's grandfather had been incarcerated for several years for an unspecified crime. Marina said that in recent years she had met many Westerners making pilgrimages to the site of their ancestors' suffering.

The Fortress is also within walking distance of the Admiralty spire, a useful landmark in a city where almost all street names and signposts are written in Cyrillic. The city is easy to get around — by foot or using the metro system which is easy to follow with a good guide book. For me, St Petersburg's Russian culture was a big attraction but it can sometimes seem strange and off-putting for Western visitors. As a frustrated Finnish businessman in my hotel said: "St Petersburg looks and feels European, but in terms of its people and way of life it is still very distant."

Stretching almost three miles from the Admiralty to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery is Nevskiy Prospekt — the grand avenue with the city's best shops, cafés, restaurants and two convenient metro stations, Nevskiy Prospekt and Gostiniy Dvor. The latter is named for the huge department store on its site. On my way in, I encountered a sea of street hawkers selling souvenirs, flowers and pets.

It was depressing: most seemed barely willing to produce a smile or shake a dopey kitten into action, a lack of superficial friendliness that extends to almost all city shops where, despite the abundance of goods for sale, the niceties of the service culture are not yet in evidence.

There is plenty to choose from at Gostiniy Dvor, but if you want to buy something particularly Russian try one of the other shops along Nevskiy Prospekt. One of my favourites was the Yeliseyeva delicatessen for Russian champagne, flavoured vodkas and chocolates at reasonable prices. Around £3 buys you a good bottle of sparkling wine, while the chocolates are cheap and beautifully wrapped — but inedible. It does not look much from the outside, but the interior is a wonderful example of the Russian *style moderne* with masses of wrought iron, cut glass and filigree.

There is also Dom Knigi, originally the home of the American sewing-machine company, Singer. It is now the city's largest bookshop and also decorated in *style moderne*. But when it all gets too much, you can retreat to one of the many cafés or restaurants to watch modern-day gangsters' molls in the form of the wives and girlfriends of "New Russians" pass by, loaded with shopping bags.

Restaurant food still lives up to its depressing Soviet Union image. Meals are expensive, stodgy, meaty masses — overcooked and tasteless and everything comes smothered in sour cream. Fresh vegetables are a rarity. If you are desperate for familiar food, McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken are available.

In the evenings I headed out on my own and found plenty to do. The Mariinsky Theatre (home of the Kirov ballet company) is popular, or there is Russian folk dancing at the Nikolaevsky Palace (tickets can be arranged at most hotels). I tried out the folk dancing, which was great fun: I soon got into the thigh slapping and high kicks (especially after the complimentary champagne, vodka and caviare in the interval).

Taking advantage of the evening sunshine, I had decided to walk to the folk dancing but got lost in what looked like a rough part of town. In my Western clothes (as opposed to the 1970s-style outfits favoured by the locals) I felt uncomfortably conspicuous. But my fears of being mugged were unfounded. A group of young Russians stopped and offered to help me find my way, even though our understanding of each other's language was equally bad.

Aside from the baroque and classical buildings that litter St Petersburg, there are five main palaces outside the city centre. I took a car (ordered from the hotel) to the Catherine palace, 16 miles south of the city. The former was commissioned by the Empress Elizabeth who, in a perfect example of Imperial hubris, engaged three architects before settling on an Italian, Bartolemeo Rastrelli, for the existing baroque masterpiece.

Set in an imposing park with naturalistic English-style landscaping and more formal Versailles and Italian-type gardens, the palace consists of room after room of unbelievable magnificence. They are so perfectly restored, it is hard to believe the buildings were practically destroyed during the Nazi occupation. The palace was one of Catherine the Great's favourite residences: it is here that you will find the pyramid graves of her treasured dogs and the Hermitage pavilion where, away from the prying eyes of the court, she is reputed to have entertained her lovers.

The most dazzling of the out-of-city palaces, however, is the white and gold Peterhof, most easily reached by car or hydrofoil picked up outside the Hermitage museum.

As well as palaces, St Petersburg has a wealth of museums. The Hermitage cannot be missed, although it is estimated it would take nine days to view each of its three million pieces, which include Rembrandts and Picassos. Less onerous is the Russian Museum off Nevskiy Prospekt which contains Russian art including medieval icons, 20th-century constructivist and socialist realist paintings, and fol... (textiles, carvings and house... items). It can be frustrating, for there is li... labelling and many ... the rooms are in a poor state.

Walking round St Petersburg can be nerve-racking, but the risk of real danger is small. The mafia is not interested in tourists. Maybe the return of Nicholas II is a good omen . . . at least, that is what the tourist officials hope.



REUTERS

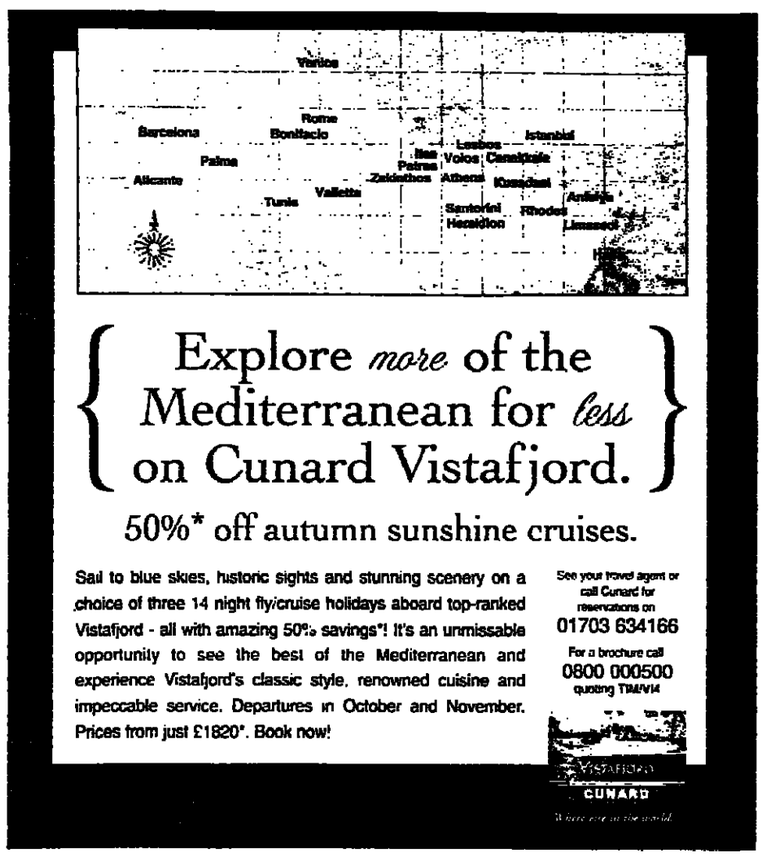
WORLD PICTURES

Gilded letters are glued to the new gravestone of Tsar Nicholas II, left; the Peter and Paul Cathedral, right



ASPECT

Cascades and fountains at the dazzling Peterhof palace



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Caught in a musical Trapp

James Henderson went to Salzburg for the classics — but found himself lured on to the *Sound of Music* tour



Julie Andrews and her charges at the market, in a scene from *The Sound of Music* which was filmed in Salzburg. Visitors can tour the film's locations

Salzburg — birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart — is enough to put any serious music lover in a spin. Year round, the cobbled streets, concert halls and churches of this "German Rome" resound with classical music. In cafés and restaurants you dine to the sweet trill of harpsichords. Even the buskers play classical music.

The city stages several music festivals a year, among which the Summer Festival — which this year begins on July 24 — is the most famous and popular. Others include the Whitsun Festival, which specialised for the first time this year in baroque music.

It is also, along with its surrounding hills, the setting for probably the most famous film musical of all time: *The Sound of Music*. Thousands of devotees visit the city each year to see where Maria, played by Julie Andrews, a novice from the Nonnberg Abbey, fell in love with the austere Baron von Trapp after becoming the governess to his seven children. Escaping from the Nazis, they all walked over the border to Switzerland. Such is the fascination with the film that there is now a *Sound of Music* mini-bus tour of the main locations.

So — even though I was visiting Salzburg first and foremost to taste its classical baroque music — I soon found myself humming along to Rodgers and Hammerstein as I explored the city's alleys and



squares on my first day. "*I am sixteen going on seventeen*," was running through my mind as I wandered past gems of Italianate and Austrian baroque architecture: churches with green onion domes and the arbors and fountains of Mirabell Gardens. Mozart, Handel, Haydn and Bach temporarily faded into the background.

Curiosity got the better of me and I decided to try the *Sound of Music* tour during a quiet moment in the festival; perhaps it would stop those Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes haunting me.

There were ten of us aboard the mini-bus as we set off on our trip: an English couple from Surrey, two Japanese and, at the front, two rows of American girls, assorted friends "doing Europe".

The guide, Peter, had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the film and he rattled off its vital statistics: filmed in 1964, directed by Robert Wise; five Academy Awards, including Best Picture. We started by visiting places around the city that were used as scenes in the film. First stop was the Leopoldskron, the magnificent rococo palace whose brilliant yellow and white exterior was used as the family home. Coincidentally it was owned for a while by Max Reinhardt, a co-founder of the Salzburg Summer Festival (who was incarnated as Uncle Max in the film). Now it belongs to an American business school.

"Isn't that where Maria and the children fell in from the rowing boat?" asked Sam, one of the Americans.

"Yes," replied Peter, "and they had to save little Gretel [the smallest von Trapp]. She almost drowned."

The gazebo that featured so much in the film is no longer there: it had to be moved because couples were creeping in at night, singing cloying duets to one another and running over the benches like Lipizzaners: "*I am sixteen, going on seventeen . . .*" It was transported to the gardens of Hellbrunn Palace in the south of the city, the next stop on the tour.

Standing outside the gazebo, the Americans were getting carried away, repeating whole scenes from the film word for word. They would have liked to go in and dance, but it was locked.

As we drove through the town, Peter — after explaining that *The Sound of Music* was based on the story of a real Salzburg family — pointed out their actual home in Aigen, a suburb in the south-east of the city; the home is now owned by Catholic missionaries. He also corrected a few myths that have grown up around the film. Rolf, Lisel's budding Nazi boyfriend, did not exist and nor did the Baroness (in the film she was threatening to get between the Baron and Maria). Singing was a significant earner, but the von Trapps were not actually winners at the Salzburg Summer Festival.

Next, the tour headed out of Salzburg and climbed up into the Salzkammergut, a fantastically pretty region of mountains, lakes and meadows. I asked Peter if he ever encouraged people to sing. "Tours vary," he said. "Some sing, others don't."

Ours did. As we passed beneath the Untersberg, where at the start of the film Julie Andrews turned a circle in her dirndl and sang her heart out, Peter pushed a cassette into the machine. The strains of *The Hills are Alive . . .* burst forth on the stereo. The American girls burst into song.

It went on and on, past forested peaks and through charming lakeside towns: "*Edelweis, Edelweis . . . Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes, snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes . . . Climb every mountain . . .*" Fine for a while, but you would have had to be a real *Sound of Music* freak not to find it a bit much by the end of the journey.

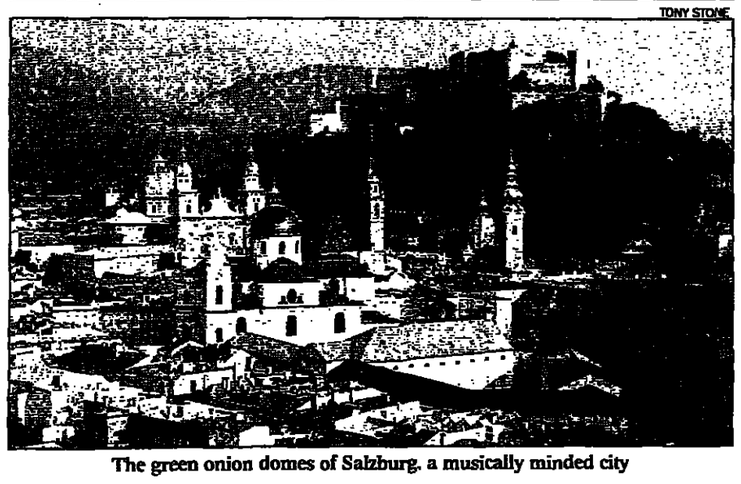
Back in Salzburg — having well and truly cleared the *Sound of Music* out of my system — I attended a sell-out orchestral concert by the Viennese Philharmonic Orchestra, with Riccardo Muti conducting and soloists Angelika Kirchschlager and Andrea Rost. The next evening I also listened to orchestral music as Le Concert des Nations, conducted by Jordi Savall and using original baroque instruments, played works by Lully, Bach and Handel, including *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. They were called back for encore after encore. It was a rousing performance, a feast for the soul. Yet somehow Salzburg for me will always conjure up a strange musical mix of both the glory of the baroque as well as the haunting Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes from *The Sound of Music*.

On the plane home, Handel and Julie Andrews were competing for my humming time.



A sidewalk café pays tribute to the grand master

SINGING SALZBURG FACT FILE



TONY STONE

The green onion domes of Salzburg, a musically minded city

■ James Henderson flew to Salzburg with Lauda Air and the Austrian National Tourist Office.
■ Getting there: Lauda Air (0845 607 7737) has 11 flights a week Gatwick to Salzburg from £197.
■ Accommodation: The four-star Altstadt Hotel Wolf-Dietrich (0043 662 871275) has double rooms from £50-£100 with breakfast.
Hotel Schloss Fuschl (0800 181123), a former Archbishop's summer palace, now a five-star hotel, about 25 minutes outside Salzburg. Double rooms with breakfast from £165 a night in July.
■ Festivals: Salzburg Summer Festival (July 24 to August 30) with performances of Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro*, Verdi's *Don Carlos* and Wagner's *Parsifal*. Modern works include *Soon*, by Hal Hartley, and *Geometry of Miracles*, a theatrical performance about the life of Frank Lloyd Wright, written and directed by Robert LePage.
The Baroque Music Festival 1999 (May 21-24) will include a production of Jean-Philippe Rameau's opera *Les Boreades*, with Sir Simon Rattle conducting the Age of Enlightenment Orchestra and Chorus and Barbara Bonney as Alphise, and Handel's *Messiah* with Sir Roger Norrington conducting the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.
■ Festival information: Salzburg Festival Trust (0181-994 0066). Tickets: First Call (0171-420 0098). Website: www.salzb-fest.co.at/salzb-fest/
■ *Sound of Music* tours: Salzburg Sightseeing Tours (0043 662 881616) and Panorama Tours (874029), departing Mirabell Platz. Adults £17, children 4-12 £9.70. *Sound of Music* show at K+K Stieglkeller (842681); show £17.50 adults, children under eight free; dinner and show £25.30.
■ Further information: Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

A FEW DAYS AT THE PYRAMIDS

A Long Weekend at the famous Mena House Hotel at Giza

There are few hotel locations in the world that can beat the Mena House at Giza with its dramatic views of the Pyramids and nearby Great Sphinx. The Mena House has played host to many of the most important personages of the last century including members of the royal families of Europe, politicians such as Churchill, stars from Hollywood as Chaplin, besides being the headquarters for Allied Chief of Command during the last war. The hotel accommodation is laid out in a circle and in the middle are beautiful grounds with a swimming pool and palm trees, where you can be sitting and believing for all the world that you are in an oasis and that you have the Pyramids all to yourself.
This is a unique opportunity at a tariff which is at a fraction of the normal to see one of the wonders of the world and in some comfort, with travel provided by British Airways scheduled non-stop flights to Cairo, 4 nights accommodation at the Mena House Hotel on a room and breakfast basis, visits to the Pyramids, Sphinx, and the Treasures of Tutankhamun at the Egyptian Museum, with optional visits to Alexandria. There is also an opportunity to see the fantastic spectacle of a sound and light performance set against the Great Sphinx.

4 nights from £395



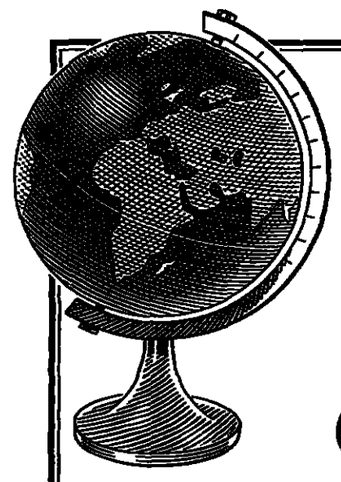
THE MENA HOUSE HOTEL

This 5-star hotel is ideally located close to the Pyramids at Giza. Today the hotel has magnificent facilities including a fine restaurant, lounges, bars, terraces and swimming pool. All rooms have full facilities and are air-conditioned. The hotel is managed by the internationally renowned Oberoi Group.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
Fridays - per person in a twin
July 17, 24, 31 £415 - August 14, 28 £415
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December 4, 11, 18 £395
Single room supplement £55
Full Day excursion to Alexandria with lunch £75
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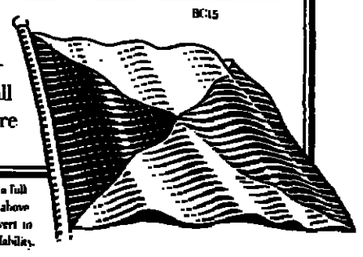
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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Florida not put out by fires



AP

A lifeguard wears a smog mask on Daytona Beach. Tour operators recommend that holidaymakers do not change their plans as fires have been dampened by recent rain

Despite a string of forest fires at popular destinations, tourists are being encouraged to stick to their plans, says Jeannette Hyde

Tourism officials are attempting to play down the potential impact on tourism of a string of fires in Florida, Italy, Greece and Kenya as the peak holiday season begins. Worried holidaymakers have swamped tour operators' and travel agents' switchboards for advice on whether to visit these areas.

Tour operators are advising clients to stick with holiday plans and are claiming that tourism zones are unaffected. Daytona Beach in Florida is clear after suffering from smog last week and Orlando, the main theme park hub, has so far been unaffected. Recent rains have dampened the worst fires which have been strongest in Brevard, Flagler and Volusia counties in Florida.

Colin Brodie, Florida Division of Tourism director of marketing for Europe, said: "Attractions, beaches and golf courses remain open for visitors. They have not reported a drop-off in attendances. The only tourist area affected was Daytona Beach where there was smog, but that is now open again." However, he admitted that the situation depends on winds staying clear of the beach.

The Foreign Office has issued the following advice for Florida: "Visitors with breathing difficulties may experience problems in areas with smoke pollution. Visitors should seek medical advice."

Most travel companies will not give refunds or provide alternative holidays without penalty to those wanting to avoid Florida. A Thomas Cook spokeswoman said: "We will look at each case on an individual basis. If you have breathing difficulties you might like to contact us to check the situation. You need a note from your doctor saying that you have a condition such as asthma. If you need to cancel the holiday on medical grounds you should also look to see if you are covered by your medical insurance."

A Universal Studios spokesman in Orlando said: "We have not felt any impact on business yet. The worst is over. Although the perception is that the whole of Florida is on fire, only three counties are affected. The nearest fires to Orlando were 15 miles away and these are out."

The fires could not have hit the state at a worse time. July and August are Florida's busiest tourism months. Around 1.4 million Britons are expected to visit this year — about the same number as in 1997. Florida is the UK's number one long-haul holiday destination.

Most of the fires reported in Greece last weekend, mainly around Athens, have been put out and scorching temperatures have fallen in many islands to a few degrees above average for this time of year.

Mathilde Robert, managing director of Greece tour operator Argo Holidays, said: "Everybody is so fed up with the weather here in England that most are delighted that the weather is so good in Greece. We are warning travellers to be careful about going out in the sun for too long. In many places it is around 35C and it can be difficult to sleep because it is so hot. But if you are into the nightlife, that should not be a problem."

The Kenya Wildlife Service said the fires in Tsavo East National Park have now been brought under control and the area is safe for tourists. Nigel Vere-Nicoll, director of tour operator On Safari, said: "Tsavo is just one of five important parks in Kenya. It is vast and safaris are still going there with no problems."

The Italian State Tourist Board in London said that the fires affecting Sicily and Sardinia earlier in the week have been controlled.



A forest fire rages on Route 92 in Volusia County, Florida

Exit the travel agent

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR

IT IS an occupational hazard of this job to be asked for advice on booking a holiday. While I am happy to suggest to my friends the sort of trips I think they might like, because I know their tastes and how much they can spend, it is a different matter with people I don't know — so I always recommend that they visit a travel agent.

But I am beginning to worry that the days of the travel agent are numbered. More and more holidays and travel services are being sold direct. Ordering a brochure by phone, then calling back to book, is now a long-established way of arranging a holiday. There are plenty of new methods, too — Thomson is hoping that its Founders Club, made up of its launch shareholders, will boost direct bookings, while this week Tesco launched a travel insurance policy that is available over the phone.

How can travel agencies compete? I know that high-street premises mean high overheads, but it would be good to see travel agents better paid. A junior counter clerk earns as little as £6,000 a year, the cost of half a dozen decent bookings, yet is expected to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of destinations and travel companies. Invest more in training staff, and holidaymakers will soon feel that visiting a travel agent helps them make a more informed choice than if they do the legwork themselves by phone. For if the travel agent disappears, we will be left with a disparate collection of telephone booking services and no way to assess or compare them.

Alternatively, travel agencies could take the fight to interlopers such as Tesco and Boots, which also sells travel insurance, by stocking tea bags and Alka Seltzer alongside the brochures — after all, these are what so many Britons take on holiday.

THE Great Wall of China can supposedly be seen from space, but recently US satellites have been picking up another strange phenomenon, also in China: long white lines which have been dubbed, with suitable mystery, "white dragons". It turns out that these trails are made from some of the 80,000 plastic food containers thrown out of the windows of China's trains each day.

So three cheers for the Chinese Government, which has decreed that takeaway containers must be made of paper, bamboo or straw. Perhaps they could follow India's example and use unfired clay cups for tea and coffee. Every train I have taken there sets off to a chorus of the smashing of hundreds of these cups, as passengers throw their empties on to the tracks — but they will not be showing in satellite pictures: the pieces are picked up and recycled.

I HEAR there are teething troubles at Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport, which opened last week. Luggage is being lost, flights are hopelessly delayed, information boards are blank and once you get out of the airport, taxis charge a fortune to take you into town. Hmmm. It did not take them long to get the hang of running an airport, did it?

English off the menu in Majorca

Steve Keenan on a campaign to reclaim the Balearics for the Spanish

IT IS one of the most familiar sights in Spain during the summer: the menu board outside a café, advertising egg and chips or bratwurst and sauerkraut at temptingly low prices.

But the menus may soon be changing. Tourism officials in the Balearic Islands this week launched a campaign to reclaim the islands for the Spanish, and are to insist that shops and businesses use Spanish or Catalan on products and signs, and not solely German or English.

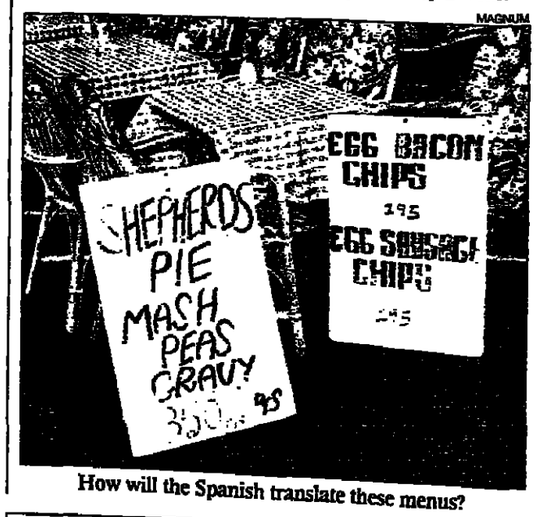
The popularity of Majorca and Minorca with Britons and Germans has alienated many Spanish visitors who are often bewildered by the profusion of foreign language signs. "There are some places on the islands where Spanish citizens cannot obtain certain goods because they do not understand what is on offer," said Francesco Fiol, the islands' Health and Consumerism Minister.

The authorities' campaign aims to end the invasion of German, English and French and resurrect the native tongues in the more touristic zones of the islands.

Twenty-two inspectors will be dispatched around the islands during the summer, ready to pounce on unsuspecting shop-owners, as well as on other businesses including estate agents, doctors and dentists. At least one of the two native tongues must appear alongside a foreign language, said officials. Offenders will first get a warning but then will be fined between 250,000 and 2.5 million pesetas (£100-£1,000) if they fail to comply.

The 760,000 inhabitants of the islands were swamped by more than nine million tourists last year. More than a million Britons will holiday on Majorca this year, with Spain accounting for 40 per cent of all summer holidays taken by Britons.

MAGNUM



How will the Spanish translate these menus?

DISNEYLAND PARIS STRIKE ACTION

VISITORS to Disneyland Paris are being treated to a new show: 30 strikers at the park's entrance. The bulk of the protesters have been the park's costumed characters, who wander the crowds and work the daily parade of floats. They are refusing to call off the two-week-old strike until Disneyland Paris recognises them as artists and performers which, under French labour legislation, would mean a steep pay rise.

● See next week's travel pages for a guide to making the most of Disneyland Paris.

Climb every mountain

Joanna Hunter meets a man who has climbed Scotland's 728 peaks

FIRST came Munro-bagging — but now anyone attempting a climbing record in Scotland will have to dream up a new term if they want to follow in Peter Lincoln's footsteps.

Last week he became the first person to climb all Scotland's 728 mountain peaks over 2,000ft. Mr Lincoln started his world record attempt in July, 1997, and mastered his final summit, Morrone, just south of Braemar, on July 2.

In the past mountaineers have attempted Scotland's Grahams (2,000-2,500ft) or Corbetts (2,500-3,000ft) or Munros (over 3,000ft), but this was the first attempt to climb all Scotland's peaks. Mr Lincoln left plastic-coated cards at some of the more remote peaks as proof that he had ascended them.

His journey between the peaks, in which he covered 8,700 miles on foot and by bicycle, has broken the record for the longest man-powered journey across the British Isles. A sixth-form politics and history teacher from Chester, Mr Lincoln took a year out for his record-breaking climb. He hopes to raise £10,000 in sponsorship for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, in memory of his father who died of the disease four years ago.

Fuelled by an intake of 9,000 calories a day, Mr Lincoln, who funded the expedition himself, travelled between the peaks by bicycle. He lived in a tent, only staying at B&Bs or hostels when the weather conditions made it unsafe to camp. He claims that his most comfortable night was spent in a toilet on the island of Jura.

Despite climbing through the winter, Mr Lincoln survived the expedition without a serious accident. He had to contend with blizzards, ice and winds up to 70mph. White-outs were also a danger: he often had to retrace his steps to descend safely.

However, it was not all uphill. He panned for gold; stumbled across the film set of an Italian spoof production of *Braveheart* and was encouraged by a female motorist, who took to appearing at random intervals and exposing herself to him. The expedition took 358 days and he managed to time his descent of a Munro in Skye to catch the second half of the Brazil versus Scotland World Cup match.

Mr Lincoln plans to give a series of lectures on his walk: for information call 01492 860122. To make donations to the Motor Neurone Disease Association, call 01604 250505.

Prices up for dawn of 2000

HOLIDAYS to welcome the millennium dawn abroad may double in price as airlines and hoteliers cash in on demand.

The first indication of how prices will rise emerged this week when Arctic Experience revealed its prices for New Year 2000. While a five-night break in Iceland will cost from £592 this year, the price for just four nights in 1999-2000 will start at £935. "Everything is going up for the millennium," said managing director Steina Palsdottir.

With airlines starting to provide fares to tour operators (public prices will be available next year), a flood of brochures covering the millennium will follow within three months. Jackie Gibson, a spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), warned potential travellers not to expect any bargains.

CORRECTION

Last Saturday we published incorrect information about the price of a child's passport. We should have said that a child's passport, valid for five years, costs £11 if ordered by post, but it costs *an extra* £10 for applications made in person.

Low cost fares also available from Aberdeen, Dublin and Manchester. Book now through your travel agent or call SAS direct on 0845 60 727 727.

Tear off to Copenhagen from Heathrow from £100 rtn. including tax £23

Or take off from Heathrow to:
Oslo £109 rtn. including tax £27
Gothenburg £116 rtn. including tax £17
Stockholm* £116 rtn. including tax £17

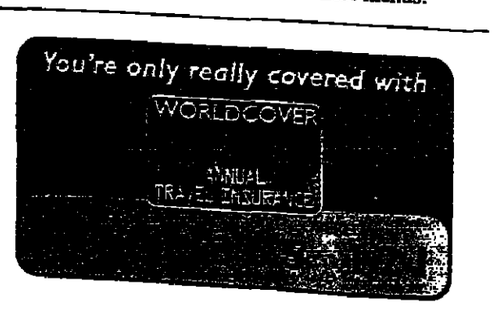
*Fly from Heathrow or Stansted. Prices shown are for midweek travel and your stay must include a Saturday night. Weekend fares are also available. Flights are subject to availability and fares to qualifying conditions.

For reservations call SAS on 0845 60 727 727 or call your local travel agent.

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Oxford Wonderland

IF YOU'RE a fan of the Cheshire Cat and the White Rabbit, the Mock Turtle and the Mad Hatter, you could be one of the first visitors to join a guided tour of the rooms where Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, wrote *Alice in Wonderland* (published in 1865) and *Through the Looking Glass* (published 1871).

The author died 100 years ago, but spent 47 years of his life at Christ Church as an undergraduate and then as a maths don, using the college and its gardens as his inspiration for Wonderland itself. Alice's door, the chestnut tree where the Cheshire Cat sat, and many other locations. Detective work is continuing in an effort to unearth more Lewis Carroll memorabilia.

The menu on which mock turtle soup was the first course of a dinner for the Prince of Wales, attended by Lewis Carroll when he was writing the book, has just been found in Christ Church kitchens. A small hand-held mirror believed to be the looking glass has also recently surfaced.

Tours run until October 3, and cost £27.50. They must be prebooked on 01865 790055. The price includes entry to the Oxford Story, an entertaining exhibition on the history of Oxford University.



Alice Liddell, the inspiration for *Alice in Wonderland*

Women ahoy!

IT WAS the tidal wave of women wishing to escape the World Cup on a flotilla holiday and asking for an all-female crew that prompted Allan Gauci, managing director of Activity Holidays (0181-898 2830), to introduce ladies-only sailing holidays in Greece during September. Tuition is given by a female instructor.

The weekly flotillas leave from the Ionian island of Lefkas and moor at different harbours each night. Prices are from £544 to £584, and include flights, the sailing and tuition, and all food except taverna meals.

Dordogne delights

BETTER known for its gastronomic treasures, the Dordogne also has the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe, many 20,000 years old and amazingly well-preserved.

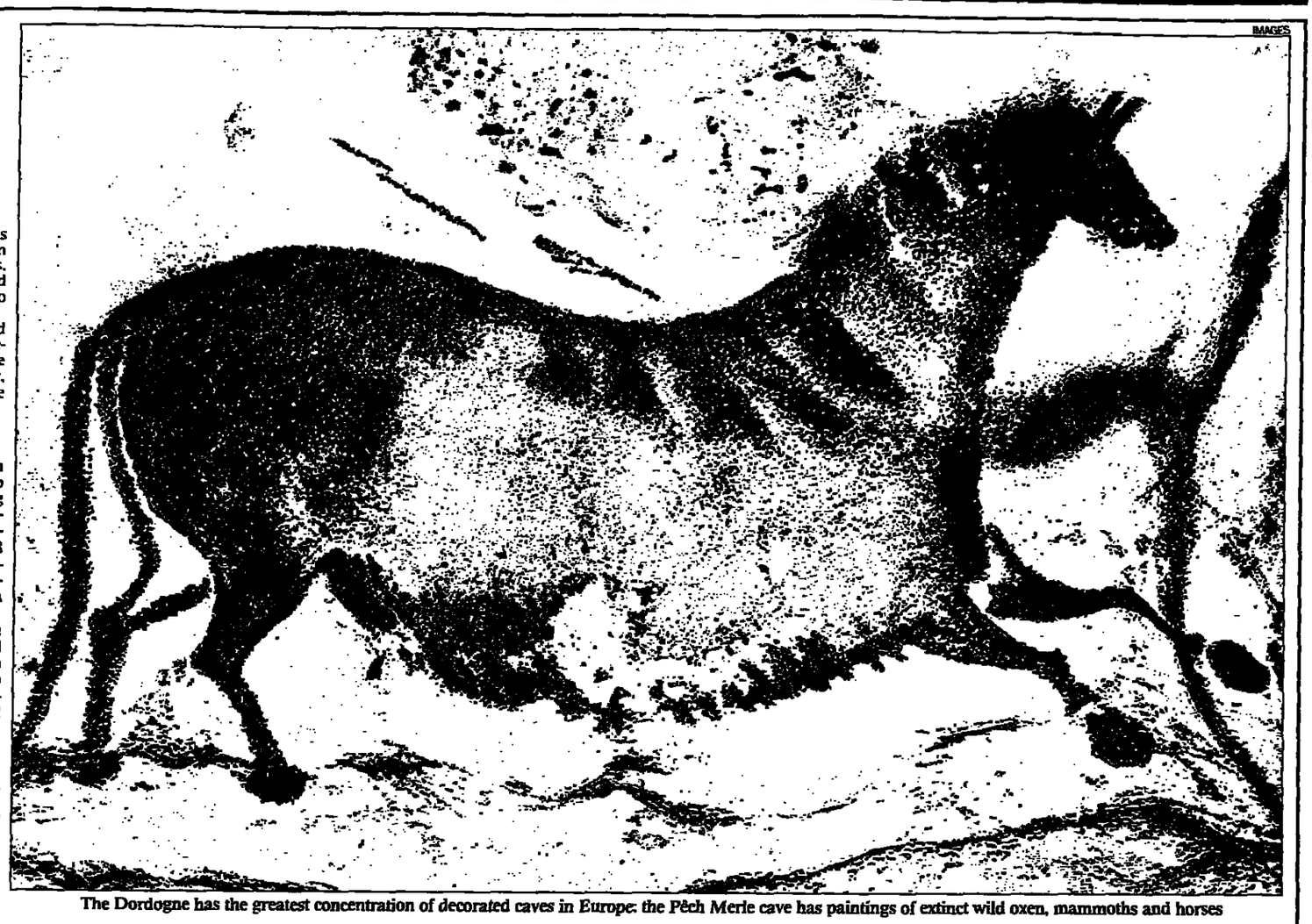
Archaeology and art specialist Andante Travels (01980 610555) is organising a Cave Art of the Dordogne tour, September 7-13, which traces artistic traditions and the evolution of society from the evidence of the debris found in the rock shelters.

Highlights of the itinerary include a tour by electric train of the five-mile cave system at Rouffignac, where the ceilings are covered with engravings, and a visit to the Pêch Merle cave painted with extinct wild oxen, mammoths and dappled horses.

Some of the Ice Age breeds of animals can be seen for real at the wildlife park at Le Thot, among them red deer and Przewalski's horses.

Saturday morning at Sarlat is kept free for stocking up on truffles and cheese, nut oil, stuffed prunes and foie gras at the weekly food market.

The trip costs £895 for flights, half-board accommodation with wine at Hotel Le Moulin de la Beune in Les Eyzies de Tayac, some picnics, entry fees and lectures.



IMAGES

The Dordogne has the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe: the Pêch Merle cave has paintings of extinct wild oxen, mammoths and horses

FESTIVAL Cruises (0171-436 0827) is bucking the trend that big is always beautiful with the introduction of its newly built *Mistral*, due to start cruising next year round the Greek islands. At a modest 48,000 tons, she'll be dwarfed by monsters such as P&O's *Grand Princess*, the world's largest cruise ship, which weighs in at 109,000 tons and carries 2,600 passengers. With a capacity of 1,196, *Mistral* has been specially built for European passengers, who prefer smaller ships and a more personal atmosphere. She'll make regular weekly cruises from Venice, from July to October 1999. Prices range from £895 to £1,595, including flights from Britain.

Fun running

IF YOU really want to leave your footprints in the sand why not join the new Andalucian Sand Running Festival on October 31 at Matalascañas, the resort on the edge of the Doñana National Park on Spain's Costa de la Luz?

The main fun run is ten miles, but there are lots of shorter distances for children and for the less energetic.

Gordon Overland (01228 526445) is organising a six-day break costing £350 for adults, £250 for children, which includes Iberia flights to Seville, transfers, accommodation with half-board in the three-star Tierra Mar Hotel, entertainment and entry in the races.

Best beaches



A HANDY free guide for the beach brigade — *The 1998 Seaside Awards*, listing 247 beaches in the UK that won't damage your health. Published by the Tidy Britain Group, criteria for judging include water quality, safety, cleaning, dog control and first aid provision. Wales comes out top, followed by the South West, with Prestatyn, Colwyn Bay and Clacton West. Pity they didn't name the bad guys! For the guide call 01603 488602.

Lemming alert

GOOD news for motorists heading for the south of France this summer — if the lemming-like rush on the A6 motorway between Paris and Lyon gets too horrific, there's a possible detour on the newly opened 68-mile section of the A39 between Dôle and Bourg-en-Bresse, the longest section of motorway opened for 17 years.

As well as providing an alternative north-south route, the A39 should also offer speedier access to the Alps and Geneva. You can find out traffic conditions on the routes by dialling 08 3668 1077 (in France only; costs 23p a minute) or on the radio: Autoroute - Info 107.7.

The glass route

PRICELESS crystal chandeliers, cathedral windows, baroque goblets and Jugendstil vases have been pouring out of the towns and villages of East Bavaria — some since the 14th century, when glassmakers settled there because of the inexhaustible supply of wood for fuel. The industrial age changed production methods but the area is still the stronghold of handmade glass.

The Glass Road is a new tourist route winding 150 miles through the forests from Neustadt an der Waldnaab to Passau, linking the glass communities, galleries and workshops.

A booklet, *The Glass Road*, describing the route and explaining the history and skills of glass-making, is available free from the German National Tourist Office (0171-493 0080).

● Travel articles in The Times since last January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on *http://www.the-times.co.uk*

A tax on your break?

Your holiday may be taxed to replenish the Air Travel Trust Fund

THE need to replenish a fund used to protect holidaymakers when their tour operator collapses has sparked an internal row within the Government.

The Civil Aviation Authority was forced to borrow £5.3 million last year when a spate of tour operator failures bled the fund dry.

Now the CAA wants a levy, in the region of 50p to £1, on all flights and holidays for a year to bring the Air Travel Trust Fund (ATTF) back into credit. The deficit attracts £1,000 in interest every day. But the ATTF's annual report, released this week, revealed that the Treasury is resisting the levy, with Government officials fearing it would be construed as a general tax.

As a result, the Treasury and the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) are at loggerheads, with the DETR backing the need for legislation to introduce the levy. "The steps necessary to introduce legislation are not in place, but replenishing the fund is a priority," said a CAA spokesman.

In the year to March 1998, the CAA repatriated 7,500 people who were abroad when their tour operator collapsed, and gave refunds to a further 25,000. But due to tighter rules on tour operators, calls on the fund amounted to just £400,000 compared to £7.2 million in the previous year. The number of failures, 21, was also the lowest for five years.

The CAA now insists that directors of failed companies be responsible for any calls on the fund. It has also appointed more inspectors, and introduced more regular checks on operator finances.

Helen Simpson, head of licencing and finance at the CAA, said: "The new controls have had a real effect in preventing abuses of the system."

STEVE KEENAN

☐ Not fit enough for the Tour de France? Go at your own pace with Belle France (01797 223777) which is offering independent cycling holidays in the Loire. Departing on July 20, 22 and 30, six nights' half board costs £482 per person if you travel by car, including ferry; or £607 by rail, departing from Waterloo. The package includes bike hire, transfers for your bags and route maps.

☐ Have you ever seen a giant tortoise or an iguana? Now's your chance: Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions (0171-381 8638) has reduced its seven-night cruise of the Galapagos Islands by £1,000. The nine-night trip, which includes two nights' accommodation only at a five star hotel in Quito, Ecuador, and seven nights' full board on the *Parranda*, is now £1,995 per person. Return flights from Heathrow to Quito, transfers and taxes are also included. Departs on July 25.

☐ Cricketer Holidays (01892 664242) is offering one bedroom apartments in Collelungo, a working vineyard near Castellina in the Chianti Classico region. Seven nights' self-catering based on two sharing starts at £850 per person, including return flights from Gatwick to Florence, transfers, car hire, welcome drinks, buffet on your first night and breakfast on your first morning. Departs July 15 or 27.

☐ Looking for a (cheap) island in the sun? Qantas Holidays (0990 673464) has reduced its five-night package to Bali in July from £689 to £525 per person. The offer includes accommodation at the Puri Santrian Beach Hotel, return flights from Heathrow, transfers and taxes. Additional nights are £21 per person. Departs daily.

☐ Now it's not just Brad Pitt who gets to go to Tibet: Encounter's (0171-370 6845) 16-day 'Highroad to Lhasa' trip departs from Kathmandu on July 18, or August 8, and travels through the foothills of the Himalayas to Lhasa, Tibet's capital, before returning to Kathmandu. The trip costs £1,478 per person, including all land transport, accommodation, food, guides and entrance fees. Flights can be arranged through Encounter, and start at £600 per person.

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ National Boating Weekend is July 18-19. Try sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing and many other water sports at more than 250 locations, including Wykeham Lake, Scarborough; Lee Valley Watersports Centre, London; Siblyback Lake, Cornwall and North Pier, Oban. Contact the National Go Boating Weekend Hotline on (0345 668844).

JOANNA HUNTER

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday 13 July to Saturday 18 July, 1998.
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
London – Amsterdam	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	from £143 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London – Athens	from £118 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£680 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Copenhagen	£77 SAS (ex-Heathrow)	£150 Go (ex-Stansted)
London – Dublin	from £50 Ryanair (ex-Stansted)	£180 Ryanair (ex-Stansted)
London – Edinburgh	£58 KLM uk (ex-Stansted/City)	from £158 KLM uk (ex-Stansted/City)
London – Lisbon	from £102 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London – Milan	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £150 Go (ex-Stansted)
Newcastle – Nice	£186 Air France	£650 BA (ex-Stansted)
London – Oslo	£82 SAS (ex-Heathrow)	£450 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
Southampton – Paris	£92 Air France (ex-Gatwick)	£260 BA

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Notes
* Fares with Air France, Go and Ryanair include tax. Other fares shown exclude tax.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

TRAVELLERS' TIP

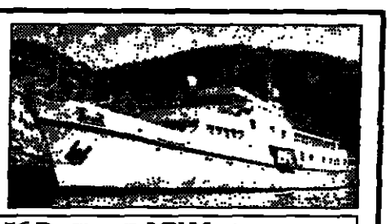
If you are travelling to China, especially to more remote areas, take with you a menu from your local Chinese take-away so you are able to point out what you want to eat, or at least compare it with what's on offer. Remember to get the right menu for the right area; for example, take a menu with a Cantonese translation if you are visiting a Cantonese region such as Guangdong or Hong Kong. — *Mrs J. Franklyn, Brighton.*

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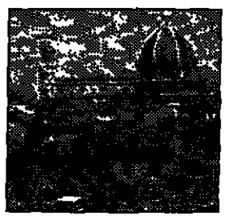
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FROM THE COTE D' AZUR TO MALTA



ABOARD THE ENCHANTING 56 PASSENGER MY MONET.
25TH OCTOBER TO 2ND NOVEMBER 1998

Only those interested in travelling on small ships should read on....The newly launched *MY Monet* is to our minds the perfect ship, in the perfect place and at the perfect time. The month of October is an excellent time in which to enjoy this wonderful Mediterranean journey. The summer crowds have dispersed and yet the weather should still be warm and perfect for exploration.



The intimate and private yacht-like 'Monet' with her thirty luxuriously appointed outside cabins offers the ideal environment for 8 day Mediterranean voyage from Nice to Malta. It is a journey of infinite interest and beauty which will include some of the loveliest places in mainland Italy and Sicily as well as the off-shore islands.

We will sail from Nice along the Ligurian Coast to Viareggio where we will have the opportunity to spend the day in Florence. Leaving the coast of Tuscany we will head for the delightful island of Elba and on to the 'Eternal City' for a day of exploration in Rome. Our next call will be the Neapolitan port of Amalfi. The dramatic and beautiful Amalfi coastline has inspired poets and travel writers through the ages and a drive along its ever twisting and cliff hugging road offers a view of some of the finest coastal scenery in the world.

From historic Amalfi we will sail south towards the northern coast of Sicily and to the little visited Limpari Islands where we shall see some of the amazing collections of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. In Sicily we will call into Syracuse, a city which once rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful in the Greek world. We shall also visit the charming resort of Taormina with its dramatic views of Mt Etna.

Our final call will be the George Cross island of Malta, from where we will fly back to London.

MY MONET

The 'Monet' has been specifically designed for coastal cruising, recognising the increasing demand for small, well run and comfortable vessels. Obviously, she offers a very different experience to that provided aboard the large resort style ships. There are no floor shows, entertainment staff or any of the regimented events found on larger vessels.

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OUTLINE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Nice with British Airways. Embark 'MY Monet' and sail.
Day 2 Viareggio. Optional full day excursion to Florence.
Day 3 Elba
Day 4 Civitevecchia for Rome
Day 5 Amalfi
Day 6 Limpari Islands
Day 7 Taormina
Day 8 Syracuse
Day 9 Malta. Disembark and return to London with Air Malta.

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Set in the Cotswalds, Calcot Manor has plenty to keep all the Symington family amused

A romantic weekend with the family

Who says that children and a few days at a country house hotel don't mix? Martin Symington finds it can be done

A Friday evening sees the Symington five crunching along the gravelled drive of a handsome, pale stone Cotswolds farmhouse.

Nine-year-old Iona has lost a tooth on the way and Toby, seven, has taken off his trainers and socks after they got caked in mud during a pee-stop. Only Sebastian, our youngest, whose vocation is that of a demolition engineer, is raring to go. What is promised is a fun weekend at the family-friendly Calcot Manor.

I valiantly volunteer to do the checking-in honours alone. The reception area is all elegance — wallpaper, gilt-framed pictures, teak and china ornaments.

Unexpectedly, I spot a pair of familiar faces. "This is our first romantic weekend in two years," say Jo and Simon, acquaintances from London.

"We're away from the kids for a weekend's peace — we've dumped them with their grandparents. Where have you sent yours?"

Uh-oh. Have we completely lost the plot and checked into one of those hotels which blows hot air about that new-fangled concept, child-friendliness, but turns out to be as suitable for youngsters as the V&A?

No, fortunately not. Calcot Manor, we discover by degrees, makes a very creditable effort at treading the fine line that has defeated others: keeping families happy in an age when children expect to be both seen and heard, while at the same time maintaining a sophisticated ambience which would last as long as a mango sorbet on an Aga if it succumbed to the whims of every brat who thinks a country house hotel is a theme park.

Here is how Calcot does it.

We are led across the courtyard, around which various cottages and outbuildings are clustered, to the old granary barn which houses nine family suites, discrete from the rest of the hotel. We have a large, warmly decorated room with a huge double bed, plus a sitting room with sofa and easy chairs.

A note in big letters from the Playzone staff is addressed personally to the children, promising toys, games, snacks and the right to "send your parents away to read the papers".

Supper from the children's menu is reasonably healthy stuff, such as grilled chicken breast with vegetables or pasta with cheese and tuna, followed by a selection of indulgent puddings.

It is served in sensible portions by young waitresses well versed in the art of buttering up children and their parents.

Our fellow diners are Canadians Nicole and Catherine. "I don't like the way he eats," announces five-year-old Catherine when Sebastian paints his face with a teddy-bear shaped ice-cream. Nobody else minds much.

Back in our room we suspect that Samantha from *Bewitched* (remember her?) has swept in, wiggled her nose and transformed sofas and chairs into three made-up beds with pyjamas folded neatly on the pillows.

They also face the telly, because we have decided to allow the unheard of — a video in bed. As *The Sword in the Stone* plays, we bath, dress, switch on the child-listening monitor and repair to the bar for a bottle of sauvignon blanc.

Never in the field of bedtime conflict has so much hassle been so deftly side-stepped with such ease.

Calcot offers us two dining options. First we try the Gumstool bar, which on Friday night is full of locals in for a pint or a bite.

Sitting snug by the fire on rustic wooden chairs painted green, I wolf down my devilled lamb's kidneys in pastry, while my wife Hennie goes for slow-roasted duck salad with pickled ginger and carrots. Both are excellent and extremely good value, especially as — though served in both starter and main course portions — the former is ample.

At The Conservatory restaurant, our Saturday night choice, we linger over more delicate fare while candlelight dances in our glasses of chablis.

For a while we can pretend we are lovers and forget the children . . .

However, 'twixt dinner and dinner is the matter of a cold, drizzly Saturday as the children make for the promised Playzone.

Veterans, despite their tender years, of many hotel children's clubs, our three can be discriminating. But this one they take to with alacrity.

In the care of warm-hearted nannies Jackie and Linda, they find common purpose with half a dozen other youngsters.

The big, bright room is stacked with a wonderful selection of all the street-cred gear they could wish for, fresh from toy trade fairs. We leave the children to their screaming spaceships, Actionmen and Barney the dinosaurs.

After a trawl through the antique shops of Tetbury and a mosey round the nearby Westonbirt Arboretum, we resolve to return to Calcot and take the kids out for a while. The poor things have not seen their parents all morning.

"But can't you see we're in the middle of a game, dad?" asked an indignant Toby, in the finals of a table football match.

The others were similarly reluctant to be dragged off for an afternoon walk across the bleak fields which roll away beyond Calcot Manor's bare herbaceous borders and dry-stone walls.

After an hour the children have had their fill of fresh air. They are also cold, muddy and ready to return to their friends and games in the Playzone.

My wife and I find that we have to get down to a bit more serious relaxation. We cannot remember when this last happened, and have to work hard on not feeling guilty. We succeed.

Nor does the day become any more taxing. The nannies supervise supper, we hire another video and Bob's our uncle.

Again, the child-listening monitor is on and the merest whimper of distress would be heard at reception and reported to us in the restaurant, whence we could be back at the room in 30 seconds flat.

But like last night, sleep comes to all the children before the credits roll on *101 Dalmatians*.

One word of caution. Efficacious though the monitor is, it can be a serious hazard.

If you forget to switch it off when you get back to your room after that romantic dinner, then all you say and do will be audible to anybody within earshot of the loudspeaker on reception. This, I blush to remember, was what happened to us.

But it was not how you think. It was worse.

I had suddenly remembered Iona's tooth and flitted into the children's room with a 50p piece, doing my best interpretation of a tooth fairy. This involved spooky "Woo-hoo-hoo, I'm a fairy!" ululations, even though they were all asleep. Then I spotted the monitor's light still on.

On Sunday morning, there is not even a wry smile from reception to hint at the howls of laughter at my expense which I have spent the night imagining. So I kid myself into believing that nobody heard. Everybody smiles, and hopes that we have had a wonderful stay.

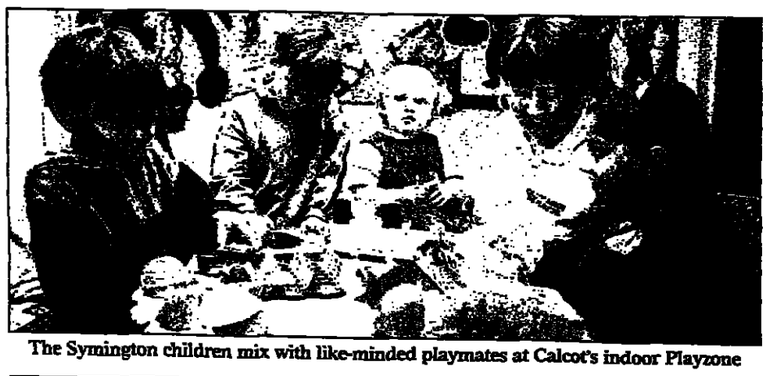
Sebastian succeeds in not breaking a single Ming Dynasty vase. Iona and Toby declare that they want to come again soon because a CD-Rom computer game is arriving at the Playzone next week.

We all leave, happy and relaxed — even the Tooth Fairy.



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Iona Symington, nine, and her brother Sebastian, five, play on the slide in the grounds of Calcot Manor, where children are welcomed warmly



The Symington children mix with like-minded playmates at Calcot's indoor Playzone



Once the children are in bed, Martin and Hennie relax over dinner in the Gumstool bar

A BREAK IN THE COUNTRY FACT BOX

■ Calcot Manor, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8YJ, (01666 890391). Family suites cost £160 per night for two adults, including breakfast. Children under three stay for free, under-12-year-olds pay a flat-rate £10 each and over-12s, £25. No further charge is made for meals from the children's menu or for up to five hours a day nanny service. Various deals are offered for longer stays.

■ Expect to pay about £12 to £15 per person for a three-course meal without wine in The Gumstool and about double that in The Conservatory.

■ Other country house hotels welcoming families include The Old Bell Hotel (01666 822344) at Malmesbury. It offers child care in its play area, called the Den. Children stay free on camp beds or in cots when sharing with their parents. Standard rooms are £100 per night, while deluxe rooms cost £145.

■ Thurlestone Hotel (01548 560382) near Kingsbridge in south Devon has an indoor swimming pool and leisure centre, a children's playroom and on certain weekends there is entertainment such as magicians and treasure hunts. Prices range from £85 to £108 per person per night, including dinner, bed and breakfast. Children under 16 stay free if in their parents' room. Children are charged £20 per day for their breakfast and tea, or £35 for breakfast and dinner.

■ Woolley Grange (01225 864705) near Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire offers child care in the "Woolley Bear's Den" for children up to eight years old. There is "The Henhouse", with pool, table football and other games for older children. Rates for double rooms vary between £99 and £250. Children stay free when sharing with parents, paying only for meals.

ANDALUCIA MAGNIFICA

visiting Granada, Baeza, Ubeda, Cordoba, Seville, Jerez de la Frontera & Ronda

So profound has been the sights and sounds of Andalucia its imagery has been summed up as a cliché for anything Spanish, yet Andalucia is in many ways completely different from any other part of Spain, be it in the attitude to life of its people or its culture which owes more to its 'Gitano' Flemish roots as in Flamenco and Moorish ancestry than it does to Spain proper. There is a vibrancy and a lust for living which is apparent in the music and pursuits of its peoples, be it horsemanship, the Zapateado dance, or the flamenco guitar.

The Andalous live in and against a magnificent scenery of rolling countryside, mountain peaks of the Sierras, and plains that stretch as far as the eye can see with white walled houses glistening against a brilliant light. The Moorish and Catholic influences can been seen wherever you go - the Moorish Alcazar cheek by jowl with the Catholic cathedral in Seville, the Mezquita in Cordoba, the Alhambra and Generalife Gardens at Granada, contrasted with the sedate almost British aspect of the old school in Jerez de la Frontera, and the dramatic hillside towns such as Ronda which owes its appearance from a more recent history.

7 nights from £685



ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 Depart Gatwick for Malaga with GB Airways, drive to Granada for 2 nights. Day 2 Exploration of Granada. Day 3 Visit Baeza and Ubeda, continue to Cordoba. Day 4 Travel across the Andalucian hinterland to Seville. Stay two nights. Day 5 Exploration of Seville. Day 6 Drive to Jerez de la Frontera. Day 7 Travel via Ronda to Gibraltar for the night. Day 8 Fly to Gatwick.

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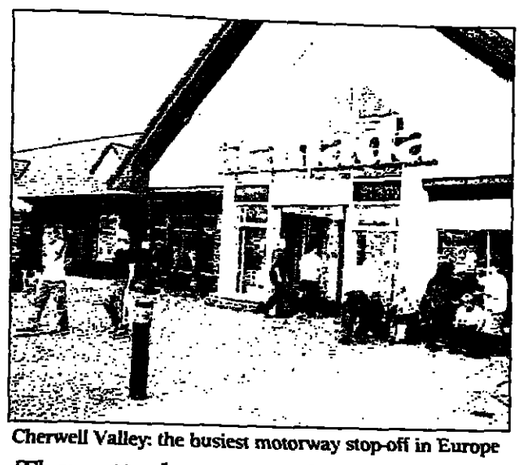
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هكذا من الأصل

The long-distance endurance test



Cherwell Valley: the busiest motorway stop-off in Europe



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Another sort of café society: Londoners who are northward bound are unlikely to miss the vast Cherwell Valley service station. It caters for a staggering 120,000 people every week

They attack your pocket, then your digestion. **Tom Chesshyre** hardens his arteries for a tour of motorway service stations

IT'S been a long drive and you need a break. You turn off at the next service station, spend five minutes finding a parking space, visit a dirty loo and then sit in a tatty canteen eating an uninspiring and over-priced sandwich washed down with a cup of weak tea.

Sounds familiar? British motorway service stations have a long-held reputation for being shabby and expensive — places to endure rather than enjoy. The Automobile Association says lack of competition between the leading chains — Granada, Welcome Break, RoadChef and Blue Boar — is to blame. "Prices for food and petrol are inflated because chains know motorists don't have anywhere else to go," said a spokesman. "We need to build more service stations so there is more choice."

The problem is that local councils are often reluctant to give planning permission because new service stations are likely to upset residents and environmentalists. However, over the past few years there have been improvements in the 50-odd service stations in Britain (although many are still well below par).

We visited six to report on what some of the best, and the worst, have to offer and gave them marks out of five.



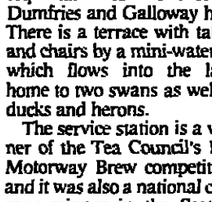
Annandale Water, A74
Off Junction 16, Johnstonebridge

THIS is tastefully designed and set 500 metres from the motorway, beside a picturesque lake with views of the Dumfries and Galloway hills. There is a terrace with tables and chairs by a mini-waterfall which flows into the lake, home to two swans as well as ducks and herons.

The service station is a winner of the Tea Council's Best Motorway Brew competition, and it was also a national category winner in the Scottish Tourist Board's Loo of the Year Awards 1997 (they are spotless).

The Lodge has comfortable rooms with balconies overlooking the lake. "I had no idea service stations could be this nice," commented Mike Weale, returning from a holiday on the Isle of Mull.

It is three years old and part of the Blue Boar chain. The only disappointment was the food: I ordered a chilli con carne which was tasteless.
Restaurant: tea (£1.25); coffee (£1.40); English breakfast (£4.79); fish and chips (£5.49).
Other facilities: gift shop, games room, nappy-changing rooms (very clean), Bank of Scotland cash point, picnic tables.
Accommodation (0800 741174): £42.95 for a double or twin room.
Celebrity clientele: Blur, Stephen Hendry, Neil Sedaka (who is reported to have bought his own album in the shop), Lord Snowdon.
Rating: ★ ★ ★



Cherwell Valley, M40
Junction 10

THIS is the first service station for motorists travelling from London to Birmingham, Manchester or Liverpool and is consequently very busy — Granada claims an average of 120,000 customers a week, making it the busiest in Europe (it was uncomfortably chock-a-block when I visited).

Cherwell Valley opened four years ago and is built in a large, landscaped "saucer" designed to keep out motorway noise. Within the rim of the "saucer" there is a grass verge, popular with motorists with dogs. There is also a children's play area. "This is great," said Julian Galsworthy, from Warrington, whose son Timothy, aged three, was zipping down the slide.

Inside it is vast. Past the stall selling mobile phone accessories, there is a well spread out self-service Granada restaurant and a waiter-service Little Chef. Some customers, however, were grumbling about prices.

"It's a rip-off," said Jodie Walter, 16, from Woodford in North London. "I can't afford anything."
Restaurant: tea (£1.49); coffee (£1.69); English breakfast (£4.99); fish and chips (£6.59).
Other facilities: gift shop, games room, nappy-changing rooms (small, bit dirty), Burger King, Barclays and NatWest cash points.
Accommodation (0800 850950): from £49.95 for a double or twin room.
Celebrity clientele: Michael Heseltine.
Rating: ★ ★



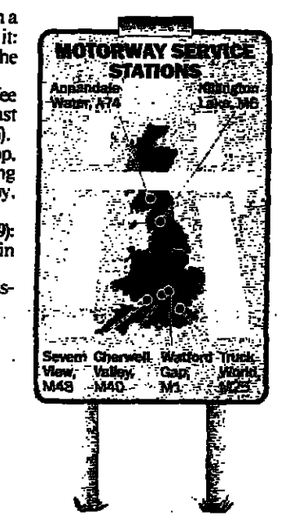
Killington Lake, M6
Between junctions 36-37 (southbound only)

NAMED after the lake it overlooks, this servcie station opened in 1972 and is part of the RoadChef chain. Horses graze on the grass sloping down to the water's edge, which is blocked by a fence. There are picnic tables with views across the lake to the Yorkshire Dales.

The main building is nothing special: a modern block with bright plastic signs advertising food and accommodation. But the spacious restaurant section at the back is well designed with stone walls and a high pine ceiling.

My English breakfast was fine (not too stodgy), but not cheap: £4.49 for a fried egg, rasher of bacon, sausage, beans and two slices of toast.

Helen Barnes, who was on a day trip to Blackpool, liked it: "The food's good and the views are great."
Restaurant: tea (£1.40); coffee (£1.45); English breakfast (£4.99); fish and chips (£6.25).
Other facilities: gift shop, games room, nappy-changing rooms (fairly clean), Wimpy, play area. No cash points.
Accommodation (0800 834719): £45.95 for a double or twin room.
Celebrity clientele: David Essex, Jack Charlton.
Rating: ★ ★ ★





Severn View, M48
Off Junction 21

THIS one is perched on a hill before the toll booths on the east side of the old Severn Bridge — the new crossing can be seen in the distance to the south. It was opened by the Queen in September 1966 on the same day as the bridge.

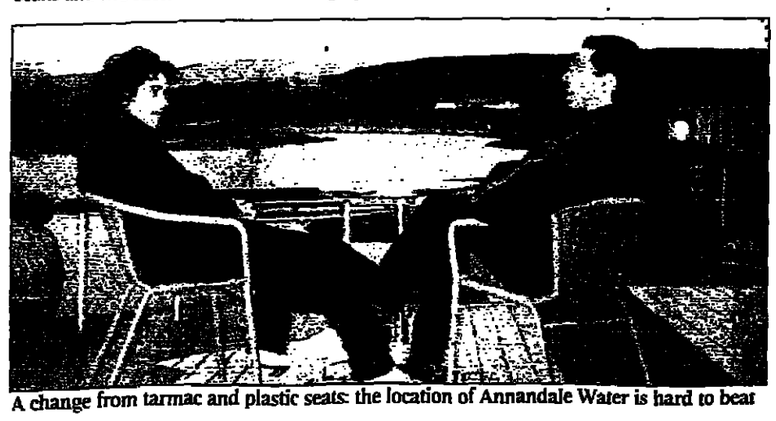
The main building is an uninspiring, grey 1960s block but the views across the Severn are great. There is an observation point with telescopes next to a grassy slope with picnic tables and a children's play area (far enough from the motorway to be quiet).

Inside this Granada station, the decor is early 1980s: green and brown chevron carpets, octagonal wall mouldings and plastic plants. It is all a bit down-at-heel: spaces for shops on the first floor stand empty. "There's been a decline here since that new wretched bridge opened," said Georgie Sleath, who has just retired after working for 31 years in the kitchen.
Restaurant: tea (£1.49); coffee (£1.69); English breakfast (£4.99); fish and chips (£6.59).
Other facilities: gift shop, Burger King, games room, nappy-changing room (small and dingy), NatWest cash point.
Accommodation (0800 555300): from £49.95 for a double or twin room.
Celebrity clientele: Frank Bruno, Noel Edmonds, Barry Manilow, the Beverley Sisters.
Rating: ★ ★



TOM CHESSHYRE

Living up to its name: Annandale Water's small waterfall



A change from tarmac and plastic seats: the location of Annandale Water is hard to beat



Watford Gap, M1
Between junctions 16-17

THIS was Britain's first service station (November 1959), but it is certainly not its best. Despite recent renovations costing £5 million, the Watford Gap is a mess.

Visitors are greeted by a sprawling car park (remember where you parked). Inside is a tiny lobby with toilet entrances, the shop, the main restaurant, a Wimpy and a games room — there is usually a jam of people trying to get from one place to another.

"It's not very inspiring — I'm not hanging around here," said David Williams from Stoke Newington, North London, who was quickly munching a sandwich.



Truck World, M25
Junction 30, West Thurrock

AS the name suggests, a favourite stop-off for truckers. It is hidden on an industrial estate next to a mountain of orange cargo crates. Car drivers are allowed entry but "not encouraged".

You drive through an intimidating corridor of lorries before reaching the main building — a hotel, canteen and bar. The walls are lined with road signs: "Give Way", "Diverted Traffic", "No Entry".

By the entrance to the bar — where a group were sipping lagers and watching a football match when I visited — there is a noticeboard advertising strip acts: Sammy, Suzie or Xanadu perform each evening, Monday to Thursday.

The canteen is spartan with yellow plastic moulded seats and a blaring television. If you like your food greasy and cheap, it's heaven. For £2.50 you get a piled plate. "I don't use normal service stations," said Peter Herbert, a tattooed trucker from Loughton in Essex. "They're too expensive."
Restaurant: tea (50p); coffee (60p); English breakfast (£2.50); leg of pork and roast potatoes (£3.95).
Other facilities: pool table, pinball, barbers (£4, including eyebrow and beard trim), gift shop (selling a choice of magazines). No cash point and no nappy-changing room.
Accommodation (01708 860040): £24 for a single, £35 for a double (£7.50 to sleep in your truck).
Celebrity clientele: n/a.
Rating: No stars (if you do not like sleaze and grease); ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (if you do).



Truck World's salon for hirsute truckers in need of a trim

Perhaps that is the idea: high turnover makes for high profits. Blue Boar, the owner, says that one million pots of tea, 450,000 portions of chips, 500,000 eggs and 650,000 Coca Cola drinks were consumed on site last year.

The shop has a book section aimed at travelling salesmen — *Even More Offensive Marketing, Everything is Negotiable* and *Leadership Skills and Success* were among the titles.

Restaurant: tea (£1.25); coffee (£1.40); English breakfast (£4.79); fish and chips (£5.49).
Other facilities: gift shop, games room, nappy-changing rooms (small, but clean), Wimpy, NatWest and Midland cash points.
Accommodation (0800 741174): from £36.50 for a double or twin room.
Celebrity clientele: Liam and Noel Gallagher, Jo Brand.
Rating: ★

FACT BOX

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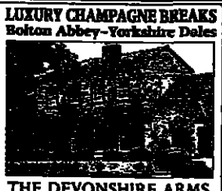


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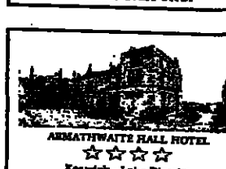
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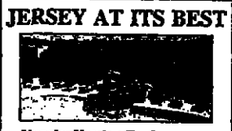
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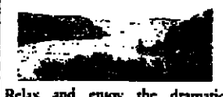


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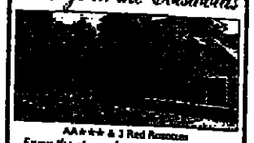
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ASIAN? Black? or white? Whatever your ethnic background you'll get a warm welcome at Dancing Down The Moon - the finest and closest personal introduction consultants for people working in the professional, business and creative worlds. Ring us for a friendly, no obligation consultation. 0171 937 6263.

ATTRACTIVE, stylish, intelligent artist based in London. Enjoys laughter, friends, music, walks in the hills. She'd like to meet a creative man 40-55 who is idealistic, passionate and with a warm heart. No fee for introducing you to one of our very special clients. Drawing Down the Moon Introduction Consultants. Please reply in writing with phone number and recent photo to box 1941

ATTRACTIVE alive, brunette, young 44. Loves talking, laughing, cooking, dining out, cinema, travel, socialising, shopping, theatre & drink. Used to good life, but happy in the pub. London based. Looking for gentleman, late 40's, fit, healthy, relaxed humour & similar interests - to be different. GSOH. I need to be spoilt! Photo pls. Box 1991 tfn

ATTRACTIVE charming ex - air hostess mid 30s, no ties WLTM professional, severe single gent, 35-45, for sociabilities/future replies. Hants. Box 1992 tfn

ATTRACTIVE business lady seeking solvent presentable 60-65 to enjoy cinema, theatre visiting/dining or just to watch the box! Recent photo plse bx 1994 tfn

ATTRACTIVE lady, mid 50s, kind, loyal, independent. Likes beauty, nature, theatre, travelling WLTM sincere gentleman to share the sense. West London Bx 1993 tfn

ATTRACTIVE slim 30s mixer, seeks sensitive supportive caring man for diversion fun and relaxation. The South. box 1999 tfn

CAMBRIDGESHIRE/Norfolk/Suffolk "Elite" Why be alone? 100's of quality, articulate local ladies. 0500 003 444 or E-Mail elitesearch@aol.com

CHARMING Thai lady, pretty, slim, late 20s, well educated seeks sincere gentleman aged 30-45, to marry and have children. Many interests. London. Last time messages were not received. If you rang before please call again. box number 1990 tfn

DISCERNING gentlemen over 50 throughout Sussex by Brighton Elite, 01273 270975

DOCKLANDS-based happy, lively & independent 34yr old single lady seeks extraordinary, intelligent, potential family man. Cute good looks optional. Send photo. Box 1986 tfn

EDUCATING RITA 44, spontaneous, adventurous, attractive, caring female, looking for tall, kind Mensa+ poss lecturer well travelled male 40s Box 2018 tfn

EX Paris ex, attractive, tall, slim, elegant, charming, well travelled (Gemeaux origin) GSOH relaxing quality lifestyle, shared interests, genuine, professional 35+ Plse reply with photo North England. Box number 2015 tfn

FORTY plus independent minded sensitive lady with GSOH WLTM sensitive man for fun & friendship. London box 2020 tfn

GENTLEMEN West pride/Wales Are you aged 50+ We have over 1000 attractive local ladies - Call Fiona "Elite" 0121 323 3314

HAMPSHIRE Body 40s, solvent, attractive lady whose keen on open air, good fitness and food, travel and tennis WLTM a kind, good looking, n/s fun loving chap not over 50 who likes children. South or London. Plse write enclosing photo to box 1980 tfn

I'M mature fun-loving, seek a wealthy respectable man to become a spoil me. London. Box 1989 tfn

INTELLIGENT, attractive widow 50, used to high quality life in London and Sussex, would very much like to meet, with marriage in mind, a kind, loving, chivalrous gentleman who can boast to a senior position and is aged between 60-75. Please reply to box number 1985 tfn

JEWISH, vivacious, attractive blonde, romantic, young 40s, no time WLTM successful, well travelled, fun loving, m/s guy, similar outlook box 1982 tfn

LIFE begins at 60 - mine has! I'm fun, ripe, free again (after retirement) fit and fanciable. If you have love, humour & height contact box 1969 tfn

NORTH EAST gentlemen! For intro's to lots of stylish, attractive ladies, call Call Julie/Jan at Elite. Open 7 days 01670 505123

LIVELY, gregarious, youthful middle aged old boy, financially independent & unexpectedly multi-skilled, based in South/Central London, seeks sensible, professional gentleman c57-62 to go dutch & share four star lifestyle, Italy, Switzerland & Caribbean favourites, theatre, eating out, charity, films, concerts, reading & fully focused activities. Have been known to smoke, drink & go to the pub. Am 5'4", 11 stone, healthy & in good spirits. Please send photo so I can appreciate your good looks. Box 1737 tfn

NOTTS/Leics/Derbys 'Elite'. 100's of attractive, articulate ladies, all ages, seeking quality men. Call Elite on 0115 937 6104 for free info

PROF female Radio 4 theatre addict and travel + time luggage WLTM 50-65 single executive with love of life & Italy to share future. Midlands box 2012 tfn

PROFESSIONAL attractive solvent blonde lady, mid 30s seeks man to share life's real love, London or nearby. Box number 2010 tfn

RUSSIAN/Ukrainian ladies seeking romance/marriage WAIA member 0181 447 0886 24 hrs

SCOTLAND Elite we have many attractive and accomplished lady members of all ages especially 30's, located throughout Scotland. Elite works gentlemen! 0131 620 7777/0141 226 7777/01224 626277 -7 days

SOCIABLE, slim blonde writer WLTM Independent, mature and self aware man 40-50 who's interested in sharing relaxed times together. You enjoy quiet travel, walking, eating in or out, psychology and music, especially jazz and classical. No fee for introducing you to one of our special clients. Drawing Down the Moon Introduction Consultants. Please reply in writing with phone number and recent photo to box no 1950

SOUTH WALES area. The Executive Club - quality introduction/personal interviews for unattached professionals: 01291 689608

SOUTH WALES area. For quality, attractive introductions call Chris at Elite 0800 092 3702

SURREY gentlemen - Select introductions to our quality ladies at Dovetail 01932 783165

TALL slender stylish attractive widow 40s passionately attached to own independence seeks unattached prof man to share heart mind body and soul London Box 2005 tfn

VERY attractive 70 year old well-dressed lady WLTM a caring cultured gentleman with a view to friendship and possible relationship with similar interests which are opera, theatre, socialising and travel. Preferably in London SW1 area bx 2022 tfn

VIRGINIA Ryder lookalike with a passion for wild nights and lazy days, gentle tall, gorgeous natal (20-35) with huge appetite for orgasm in the capital fantasising about a whatever... Reply with photo to box number 2019 tfn

WRITER (female 50 plus) seeks computer literate, male assistant, free to travel. Box1976 tfn

Zzzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

SLIM, attractive, sophisticated lady, 5'5", enjoys the arts, travel, socialising, WLTM caring, n/s man 50+, GSOH, for meaningful relationship. Box 1976 tfn

SOMERSET - Attractive mid 50's lady - career minded, loves travel, books, theatre & all good things in life. WLTM kind, intelligent, solvent, professional gentleman 55-65 - friendship, romance, fun. Please write with photo & tel. no to box number 1886 tfn

SPARKLING, spirited, smart, sensual and slender - yes there is. This tall, dark haired, eye catching, caring, fun loving girl/woman (mid 30s) has romantic interests including sport, travel, fast cars, slow walks, the arts, food and wine, conversation and laughter. Is equally happy in countryside, clubs/pubs, jeans/black dresses. Wishes to be spellbound by someone special who is charismatic, handsome, warm & intelligent (35-40ish). If you value trust, sincerity, love and are happy to hold hands in public & want to create a magical future plse send essential photo/no to box 1606 tfn

SPIRITED lady, 40s, WLTM kind, caring, solvent gentleman, 45-55, for friendship, romance, travel, theatre, cinema, dining out, walks in countryside. Photo please. Box 1977 tfn

STUNNING Russian lady, 5'8", 34-24-34, 28 yrs old, seeks generous gentleman for friendship, travel, fun & romance. Box 1978 tfn

SUSSEX Elite Introductions for quality partners 0800 214920

TALL slim, fit, professional North London male WLTM attractive, warm, 40 something lady. Enjoys sailing, tennis, travel, skiing. Photo please. Box 1623 tfn

WEST COUNTRY publisher, 48, warm, affectionate, loves beach, theatre, art & cooking, seeks female partner, 30-50, for romantic evenings/ weekends. Photo please. Box number 1608 tfn

WIDOWER, late 50's, seeks companionship leading to long term relationship. Likes interests: Walking & travelling the Continent & the Grand Union Canal. Area West Herts & London. Box number 1656

WIDOWER - 4 yrs, fit hale hearty looks 65/70, a muscat seeks lady, pen friend/ companion. Staffs/Shropshire border. Please respond to box number 2003 tfn

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GENTLEMEN

ACCOMPLISHED successful property businessman 40 WLTM slim, smart, n/s unattached lady 40s living in Hampshire who would like to be pampered & treated like a lady. Plse reply with recent photo to box 1954 tfn

AIRLINE PILOT by twist of fate attractive successful reaching career 50 year vintage (time flies) but so do I! A wine of occasion, 2 children living with ex wife real sparkler. Elite 5'8" London Photo box 1969 tfn

AN outgoing handsome, slim, solvent lady 40-50 of average height - petite does not seem to exist but if you come close... a well educated fit adventurous good looking sincere n/s North Birmingham gentleman late 40s is looking for you Bx 1940 tfn

ARE you a very attractive, fun-loving lady under 40 then good looking, confident successful businessman aged 40 who finds himself unexpectedly alone would like to meet you for dinner nights & weekends away in a fun one to one relationship. Telephone number and photo please to box 2011 tfn

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ATTRACTIVE, tall, strong & successful business director, mid 50's, divorced, WLTM good looking, full bodied, free spirit, warm & loving educated adventurous lady 40-50 enjoying the sea, nature, sun & travel. Letter with photo please. Box 1972 tfn

ATTRACTIVE Co-Director, youthful mid 40s, slim, 5'10, n/s, WLTM similar lady 35-47 who has an attractive heart, personality as well as exterior to develop a lasting loving relationship Bexley/London box 1967 tfn

ATTRACTIVE sincere widower, 48, youthful in mind and body, slim, sporty, loves music, travel & laughter, WLTM similar relaxed unpretentious attractive lady. Please respond to box 2013 tfn

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CHESHIRE/N West, warm, easy going prof man 40, with many and varied interests from the countryside to the kitchen WLTM a practical and happy lady for fun and friendship. box 2014 tfn

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RELIABLE tall presentable professional man just 50 enjoys rugged sports quizzes music country walks European travel & lazy evenings. WLTM lady 40-49 similar interests friendship hopefully leading to something more. North London Herts & surrounding areas reply box 1965 tfn

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WIDOWER - 4 yrs, fit hale hearty looks 65/70, a muscat seeks lady, pen friend/ companion. Staffs/Shropshire border. Please respond to box number 2003 tfn

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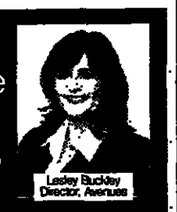
TALL, slim, fit, professional North London male WLTM attractive, warm, 40 something lady. Enjoys sailing, tennis, travel, skiing. Photo please. Box 1623 tfn

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WIDOWER, late 50's, seeks companionship leading to long term relationship. Likes interests: Walking & travelling the Continent & the Grand Union Canal. Area West Herts & London. Box number 1656

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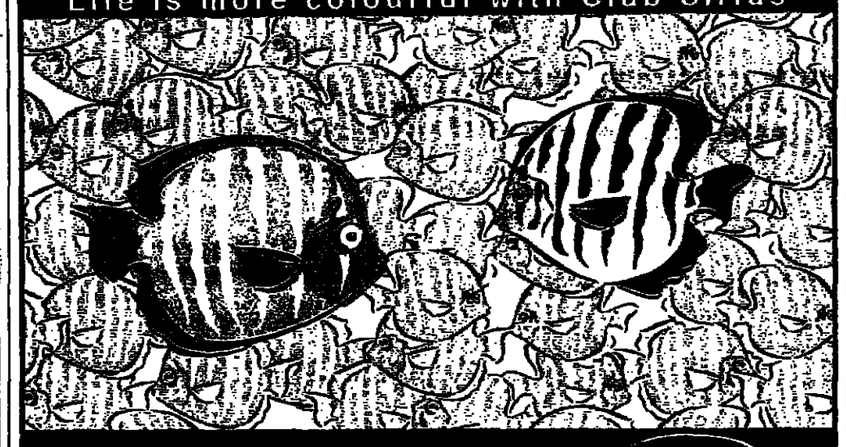
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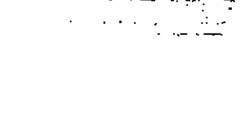
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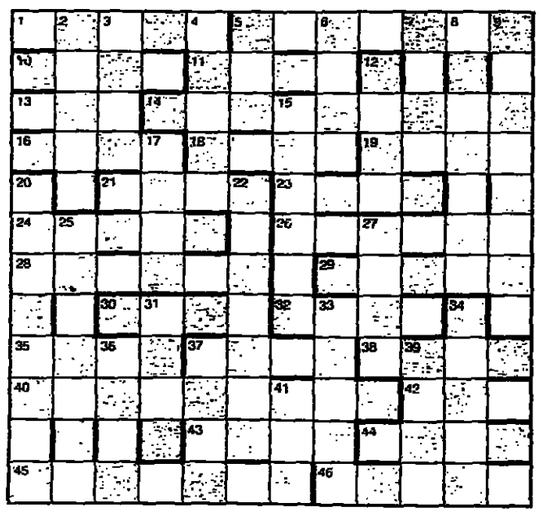
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The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



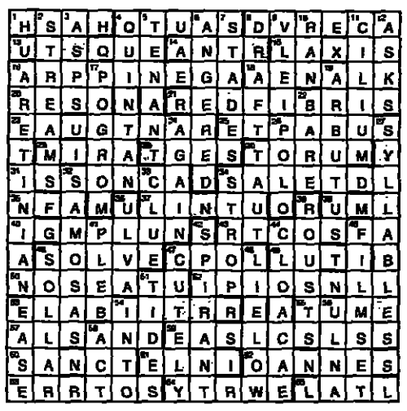
Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in almost every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's call 01225 448595.

SUBSIDIARY INDICATIONS in Across and Down clues lead to one-letter misprinted versions of the actual answers. These misprinted letters, read in clue order, give two phrases: the first, of six words, describes how the journey was made and also, cryptically, what the route's maker (7,8) might lead to. The second phrase gives two of the traveller's other forerunners. "Traveller" clues are listed in order, from top to bottom. Their answers should be entered — initially unaltered — in a certain way, suggested by their one common letter and square. This letter also provides a clue to the starting point of each. The location (geographically appropriate) of the common square is to be deduced and displayed. Initial letters of the "Traveller" answers should then be decoded to reveal the name of the traveller, a process which will remove any temporary misprints from the grid. Solvers should delineate this name, the destination and when the journey took place on the already appropriately marked squares (covering 27 in all). With the exception of one place name in *The Times Atlas*), all answers, clued and unclued, including several abbreviations, appear somewhere in *Chambers* 1993. The *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* Fourth Edition is also recommended. Punctuation may occasionally mislead.

TRAVELLERS
Bind up evil half of them first (6)
Stick first of bills in the post (4)
Liberace, with money, has no hesitation playing pianos (7)
Dress down in ramshackle pub sortie (7)
Souvenir of Dutch painter largely associated with church captivating me (11)
I'm seen in tops of casks, handmade barrels (5)
I am boatman with double river crossing: I'm no longer scraped by bow (12, two words)
More cha brewing sustains old abstainer (6)
Question I put to bachelor in Saudi Arabia (4)
Drink at dance is suspended for lightweights for example (9)

ACROSS
1 Master braking system for craters (5)
5 Coarse tale, if ably spun, suitable for all (7)
10 *This* Eve's never tempted Adam by such overtures (4)
11 Dodgy clue in place (4)
13 Exercise is hardening heart (3)
14 Trebled or otherwise increased (9)
16 Refusal brandy from nobleman (4)
18 Universal agreement for more than one so long (4)
19 Speedy W. African runner not quite achieving destiny (4)
21 Music student's obligation (4)
23 Elder, not junior, joiner (4)
24 Measure record with expression of disbelief (5)
26 British Academy's chief clerks (6)
28 Gunners, badly hurt, held out (but not for a long time) (6)
29 Prize winning poets, Dutch, involved in rows (5)
30 Doesn't happen in mobile unit (4)
32 Birthday treat's starter: peaches (4)
35 Dressy chap now starts with universal sloth (4)
37 Grill mackerel once (4)
38 Black bowler's right (usually) on half of 'em (4)
40 Tease agent, a new member of secret society (9)
42 Speculator endlessly spinning yarn (3)
43 Jelly and a double helping of tart filling (4)
44 Little pest not to inspire loathing in Auntie (4)
45 A racket head helps in doubles (7)
46 Third — not second — egg starter needed to make canon gorge (5)

DOWN
2 Lands left out of American state (5, reversed)
3 A three-time bishop's designation (4)
4 They'll be idle before second school vacation's up (5)
5 Iron railroad shaft forged at Stratford? (3)
6 Beasts, unwatered, raise objections (4)
7 Within fringes of rave, where pills are popped (4)
8 One lifting curse rings Dean initially, fulfilling condition of Primate (7)
9 Pope's nor tainted by sundry saint erring (8)
12 On the way up sign name once (4)
15 Trawled for fish in ocean floor (6)
17 Old ass discharging goods in marsh (4)
20 Organised crime run with a certain element (8)
22 Lay over the odds in Tote in this? (7)
25 Sixpence one's put in basket (7)
27 Ruth and Jack into heroin and Ecstasy (4)
31 Little girl|'s making advances (4)
33 Work requiring movement of a sort (5, two words)
34 Brain is so split by lethal dose — about 11 becquerels (5)
36 No longer last, gets gold and still not finished (4)
37 Grass — 10 to twelve ounces in Rome (4)
39 French singer-songwriter grows thorny (4)
41 Nice farmhouse — novel view of sea (3)



Solution and notes for No. 3467
16d (9) 27 (9) by Llig

16D, 27: Aretinian syllables (see Chambers definition and explanatory prayer in Latin which is contained in alternate rows in grid)

The winner is Mrs A.R. Grimsley, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

The runners up are: Nigel Gavin, Sevenoaks, Kent; J.C. Harding, Portishead, Bristol; Michael J. Grocott, Loughborough, Leicestershire; R.E. Boot, London W5; P. Jewell, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

WEST had a discarding problem on this hand, from the 1997 Gold Cup.

Dir East — North-South game — IMPs

	♠ Q3 ♥ 7543 ♦ 765 ♣ AK104	
♠ 975 ♥ 9 ♦ KJ1043 ♣ J852	N W E S	♠ KJ8642 ♥ 10 ♦ Q2 ♣ Q963
	♠ A10 ♥ AKQJ862 ♦ A98 ♣ 7	

W	N	E	S
-	-	2S	4H
Pass	5H	Pass	6H
All Pass			

Contract: Six Hearts by South.
Lead: the seven of spades

Two Spades showed a weak hand (less than an opening bid) with a six-card spade suit. Declarer plays low from dummy on the spade lead. East plays the jack and declarer takes the ace. He then plays off ace and king of hearts. West throws a diamond on the second heart: East follows once and then throws a spade.

Declarer now plays a third high heart. What should West's plan of discards be?

It is always difficult discarding on a long suit, but one of the first things to do is to form a picture of the unseen hands. Here, West knows after the first three tricks that declarer has ace and ten of spades (East played the jack at trick one), and seven hearts. He presumably would not have advanced to Six Hearts without the ace of diamonds, so with dummy's ace and king of clubs, that gives him 11 tricks. Thus if declarer has the queen of clubs he will have 12 tricks. Hence West has to assume East holds that card.

Until dummy is exhausted of trumps, West has to keep four clubs in case declarer has a doubleton — discarding a club would allow declarer to ruff out the suit and enter dummy with a small trump to cash the long club. So West lets another diamond go and sees East discard another spade.

Declarer plays a fourth high heart: now he no longer has an entry to dummy outside clubs, so at that point West can throw the eight of clubs (to show East he has an even number). East throws the nine of clubs. Clearly he would not throw a club from a holding of two or three, so West can work out that the declarer must have one club: thus his shape must be 2-7-3-1. All West has to do now is to keep three diamonds if declarer leads out more hearts.

At the table West was obsessed with the importance of holding on to four clubs. When declarer took all his hearts bar one, three of West's five discards were diamonds. Thus in the end-position declarer could take a spade discard on the second club, and then play ace and another diamond to set up his nine, the twelfth trick.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

BASHA
(c) A bamboo hut with a thatched roof. The Annamese word.

BOSKER
(b) Good, excellent, delightful. Oz and New Zealand slang. Now obsolescent. "Cripes!" he said. "She's a fair bosker, ain't she!"

FLUBDUB
(a) Bombastic or inept language. Chiefly US. Origin fanciful. Rudyard Kipling, *Traffics & Discoveries, 1902*: "Any God's quantity of fuss and flubdub to bury a man."

GIGERIUM
(a) The same as a gizzard.

TWO BRAINS

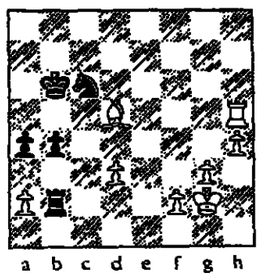
Answers from page 36
Question 1
Wellington - Waterloo; Cardigan - Balaklava; Caesar - Alesia; Kutuzov - Borodino; Marlborough - Blenheim.
Question 2
A goes with B (5 mins); B returns (with light — 10 mins); C goes with D (30 mins); A comes back (31 mins); A goes with B (36 mins).

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

A COMMENT in the book *Analyse to Win* by international master Byron Jacobs set me thinking about a revision of many of the judgments on classic past games. In his book Jacobs wrote: "One thing that struck me while writing this book is the extent to which older 'pre-computer' analysis is unreliable."

On an occasional basis, from this week on, I shall be subjecting some of the classic positions to computer revision. I kick off with the famous endgame from Rubinstein v Capablanca, San Sebastián 1911.



Here Capablanca played 38 . . . b3 losing quickly after 39 axb3 a3 40 Bxc6 Rxb3 41 Bd5 a2 42 Rh6+

After the game 38 . . . Rxa2, offering up his rook in exchange for a mass of passed pawns was widely recommended as an opportunity which Capablanca had missed.

Let us now see how the Fritz computer program cuts its way through the tangled jungle of variations to reach a verdict:

a) 39 Bxa2 b3 40 Bb1 a3 wins for Black.

b) 39 Bc4 Rc2 40 Rb5+ Kc7 41 Bg8 is unclear after 41 . . . a3, although White is certainly better. This was the original conclusion, reached by annotators at the time.

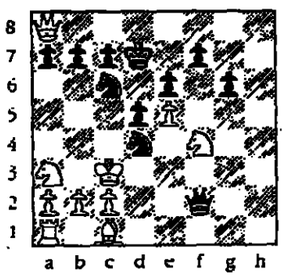
c) 39 Rh6 Rc2 40 h5 with the following possibilities:

c1) 40 . . . a3 41 Re6 and now instead of 41 . . . a2 42 Re1 Nd4 43 h6 b3 44 h7 Rc8 45 Bg8 as given more recently by Polish international master Pytel and Russian grandmaster Razuvaev 41 . . . Rc5 (Fritz) keeps Black well in the game. 42 Ba2 (42 Bf3 a2 wins for Black) and here the simple 42 . . . Rxh5 keeps the situation unclear.

c2) 40 . . . b3 41 Re6 and now 41 . . . b2 42 Ba2 Rc1 43 h6 Ra1 44 h7 Rxa2 45 h8Q b1Q 46 Qb8+ winning is given by Pytel and Razuvaev. But, again, 41 . . . Rc5 (Fritz) and the best is 42 Bxc6 Rxc6 43 Rxc6+ Kxc6 44 h6 b2 45 h7 b1Q 46 h8Q Qxd3 and the game will be a draw.

The conclusion must be that 38 . . . Rxa2 is definitely correct and that the old move, given at the time, 39 Bc4, is superior to the intended modern improvement.

The next case is a variation from the game Spielmann v Nimzowitsch, Stockholm 1920.



In this situation Black has sacrificed a rook and a bishop to launch a king hunt. Nimzowitsch's notes suggest, without back-up analysis, that the stunning 20 . . . Nb3!! forces mate. I was intrigued by this position 25 years ago and tried to work out all the variations. Now I have the chance to check my conclusions against silicon objectivity.

The key variations are as follows:

a) 21 axb3 Qd4 mate.

b) 21 cxb3 Qd4+ 22 Kc2 Nb4+ 23 Kb1 Qe4+ mating.

c) 21 Kxb3 Qb6+ 22 Nb5 Qxb5+ 23 Kc3 Qc4+ 24 Kd2 Qxf4+ and now:

c1) 25 Kd3 Qe4+ 26 Kd2 and now instead of 26 . . . Nxe5, which I had originally advocated, Fritz suggests the more direct 26 . . . Nd4 27 Kc3 (forced) 27 . . . Nxc2 28 Rb1 Ne1 winning immediately.

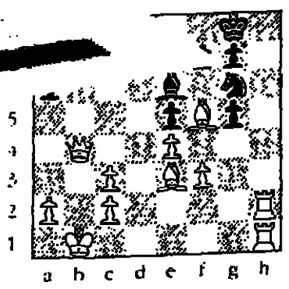
c2) 25 Ke2 Qe4+ 26 Be3 and now 26 . . . d4 (again my original idea) is good, but even stronger is 26 . . . Nd4+ 27 Kf1 (everything else gets mated) 27 . . . Qh1+ 28 Bg1 Qh3+ 29 Ke1 Nxc2+ and White's position is hopeless.

c3) Finally, 25 Ke1 Qe4+ 26 Kf2 Nd4 is terminal.

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

[illegible] play. This position is from [illegible] Tisdall v Mednis, Gaus-



How did White make the most of the open h-file?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition:
1 Rxc6

The winner is: Ahmed Elyas of London SW9.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THERE HAVE been several silly inventions which never took off. My favourite is the Coffin with Escape Hatch, a Heath Robinson affair dreamed up by American inventor Franz Vestor in 1868. It was intended for those who lived in fear of accidentally being buried alive.

Mr Vestor's wooden coffin had a specially adapted lid with a wide tube leading from it, which "extends from the coffin up through and over the surface of the grave". In the tube was a ladder and a cord. "One end of said cord being placed in the hand of the person laid in the coffin, the other end attached to a bell. Should a person be interred ere life is extinct, he can, on recovery to consciousness, ascend from the grave and the coffin by the ladder or, if not able to ascend by said ladder, ring the bell, thereby giving an alarm."

Another over-inflated idea which failed to catch on was the Wind Bag. This was invented in 1939 "for the receiving and storing of gas formed by the digestion of foods". Central to this contraption was a tube boasting a lip at one end to aid its placing near the offending human body part. At the other end was a slender "collection chamber" which was strapped around the body for hiding under one's clothes.

Just as silly are the ways some "newbies", or newcomers, have tried operating their first computer.

For example, there is the lady who apparently rang her retailer complaining that her computer was faulty. She seemed to be doing everything by the book, until she explained that she used the CD-Rom drawer to hold her mug of coffee. Then there was the man who tried loading a program supplied on numerous floppy disks. The computer stopped halfway through the exercise. "I managed to push the first three disks into the A-drive slot but it wouldn't take the others," he explained.

These people and doubtless many more would benefit from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to PCs*, an American import just released here in its sixth edition. This book blows away confusing computer jargon by explaining everything in lay terms.

FRANK SPOONER



Now you don't have to feel like an idiot when using your first PC

Written in a friendly, light-hearted style, with some 30 chapters, the book leads you confidently up the understanding ladder. It assumes that you know nothing and that your only knowledge of matters technical is turning on the TV.

The Guide is liberally illustrated with jokey cartoons and, more practically, actual monitor screen-grabs so you know just what you should be seeing on the PC. The book costs £18.49 from Computer Manuals (0121-778 3333) — its website is http://computer-manuals.co.uk.

Incidentally, another question I have been asked concerned the Internet. "Once I have typed in an Internet address, what do I do," asked the puzzled newbie. "I have looked everywhere but nothing says what happens next." The answer is to press return to activate the instruction and I mention this now in case anyone else is having the same headache.

NEWS FROM reader Nigel Lamb, who last year was among the winners of our competition to publish a website on the Internet. His efforts are just paying off with the arrival of his virtual baby, NETinTouch (http://www.lamb.dircon.co.uk/NETinTouch).

He wrote: "I have been battling with HTML and the like to get my idea working. It is a website to enable people around the world who have lost contact with family or friends to re-establish contact. At the site is a virtual noticeboard where messages can be posted.

"I now have a fledgeling site up and running which, though in need of refinement, has already found people. As well as the normal separations that occur in life, those people affected by more unfortunate circumstances — including adoption, natural disasters and war — could be helped by the site.

"Funnily enough at the moment, my site gets more visitors from the other side of the world than those closer to home but, either way, it seems to be working." At NETinTouch, the noticeboard "is deliberately not organised into categories or alphabetical order to encourage people to browse". Visitors can also complete a form to leave their own lost ads.

NEW SOFTWARE

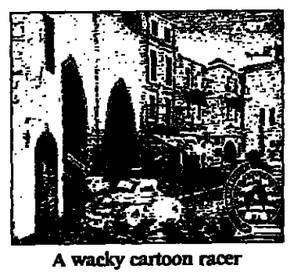
THE SIMILARITIES between Telstar Electronic Studio's Wreckin' Crew, for PlayStation and PC, and Nintendo's highly acclaimed classic Mario Kart are no coincidence. "It is in homage" to the best-selling N64 karting title, boldly reads its blurb.

Wreckin' Crew is a wacky cartoon racer serving up some quirky fun in four highly eclectic worlds — entitled New York, Sydney, Mediterranean and Theme Park. The graphics are perky and colourful and the whole experience feels like a karting version of Pandemonium.

There is a choice of eight characters/vehicles to choose from, each with different weapons including blunderbusses and blow-torches. The races are along haphazard courses littered with power-up hoops and various bonuses.

The oddest thing about Wreckin' Crew is not the delay in its release — it was originally expected yonks ago — but its Elspa rating. The game does indeed have a look and feel straight out of Mario Kart, right down to an innocent and inoffensive appeal to cross all age groups. That it is deemed suitable only for players aged 11 and over is a mystery, particularly when Crime Killer, a stylish cop-chaser romp which actually features "kill" totals in its goals, is rated suitable for anyone who is over the age of three.
Verdict: 8 out of 10. PlayStation karting title to compete with N64's Mario Kart. £39.99. PC version, £34.99.

THE 3RD MILLENNIUM is a strategy god game in the mould of Civilisation and countless others.



A wacky cartoon racer

This being so, you are charged with growing your race into a lasting power on the planet.

The game starts long after the Dome in Greenwich will have become tattered and torn, at the beginning of the next millennium on January 1, 2001 (sic). From that moment the game is against the clock, for you have 500 years to build up your citizens and global clout.

Along the way you can meddle with the lives of your people as much as you want. You must balance the books and decide how much or little they work, play and pay in taxes. Your master plan must take in considerations for road, rail, communications and the environment. Progress is charted in regular news bulletins.

Developed by the French company Cryo, the title is a competent stab at the genre which might have worked if it came out three years ago. It just is not sufficiently ground-breaking to worry the competition in 1998, which is already miles ahead with games like Sim City 3000, an ultra-smooth makeover due later this year.
Verdict: 6 out of 10. Copycat god gaming from Cryo. £39.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 173

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The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books is Peter Roche, Twickenham, Middlesex

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q Our family is taking a holiday in France, and on the way home we are to stay at a bed and breakfast we know. It is owned by an extremely friendly husband-and-wife team who eat dinner with their guests. Monsieur is a retired Parisian chef and does the cooking. Last year we had an haute cuisine meal that we enjoyed, but it was too sophisticated for our four children, then aged from 13 to eight, who left most of it. They would much prefer something like chicken nuggets or burgers with chips, followed by ice-cream. Could we request in advance the provision of an alternative menu or should we accept the situation for fear of giving offence? — *Rev C.O. Mason, London NW2.*

A Accept gracefully. Otherwise, not only would you be offending *les patrons* but you would also be wasting an opportunity to broaden your children's culinary horizons. If you are convinced the children are going to be difficult, you could suggest that their food is cooked more simply. However, I feel that this is a good opportunity to train your children in the good manners of eating whatever is put in front of them for, as we all know, children who are over-indulged at the table tend to grow up into dietetically tiresome adults.



Q When one receives a formal invitation "Mr and Mrs John Jones request the pleasure of . . . " etc, should one address the acceptance and subsequently the "thank you" letter only to Mrs John Jones or to both? What should apply if the informal "invite" is used by a couple? — *Mrs M. Alexander, Poole, Dorset.*

A The envelope should be addressed to the wife alone. The same is true of a thank you letter. However, the wording of the reply should mention husband and wife. The "invite" model is worded "Mr and Mrs M Alexander thank Mr and Mrs Boris Blott for their kind invitation . . . "

Q A friend's wedding is giving rise to a great deal of work gossip. We all know that her fiancé is recently divorced with a young child, but she never mentions this and gives the impression that it is a first wedding for them both. Colleagues feel that she is hypocritical and are showing little interest in her plans. My friend is upset by their attitude. Should I try to find an opportunity to explain tactfully what we know, or do I risk losing her friendship as she is a very sensitive person? (Later this year she is to take up a more senior position at work, but colleagues feel she is devious and untrustworthy.) As the only invited guest to the wedding from work I feel I need some advice on this very sensitive situation. — *Name and address withheld.*

A Good manners always recognise a distinction between professional and personal life. Perhaps you are making too much of a private matter which really is not office business. As the only invitee you are obviously closer to the bride who may simply be slightly shy about the fact that her fiancé has been married before. By all means try to bring this into the open tactfully. Your friend will probably be relieved that it need no longer be kept a secret and that there will be no necessity for more gossip. It sounds to me as if there is a certain amount of professional jealousy surrounding her promotion which is getting transferred to her personal circumstances.

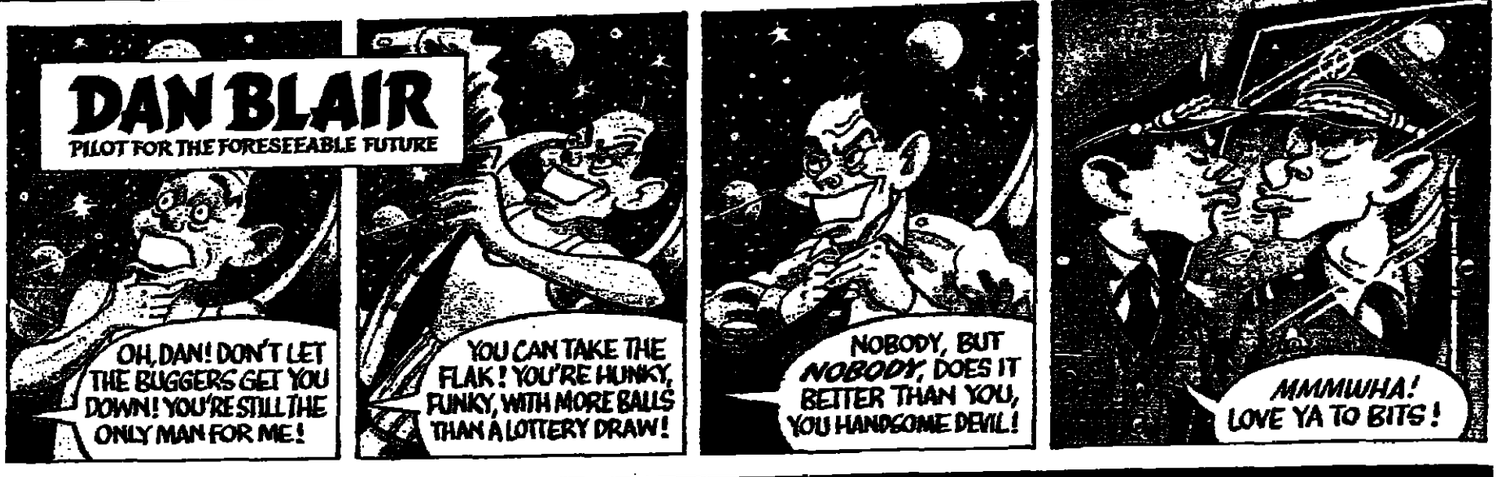
Q I watched the TV presentation of Ascot recently and was struck by the fact that most of the men neither doffed their top hats to the Queen nor removed them while talking to her. The same treatment seemed to be accorded to other females around the course. I would feel uncomfortable doing this, but does some special etiquette rule apply? — *Tony Brown; Henfield, West Sussex.*

A I, too, was surprised by how many men's hats seemed to be glued to their heads. I am afraid ignorance rather than the adherence to an ancient arcane custom is to blame.

Q I am throwing a party for my 50th birthday. I have invited 100 people, including two couples, the female of one and the male of another from work. I and the other work invitees know that my two chums have been having an affair for years. The husband of my girlfriend and the wife of my male chum appear to be unaware of what everyone else knows. I invited both couples because I thought that they would discuss it between them — the lovers — and perhaps decide that one couple would accept and one decline, but I would leave the decision to them. However, both have accepted. Was I wrong to invite both — should both have accepted and how do I cope with the result? — *Mary Smyth, address withheld.*

A No, you adopted the well-mannered and non-judgmental approach of inviting both in the official social units that constitute their marital states. It was left to them to decide whether it was appropriate to accept. As they have done so, I can only conclude that after years of concealing their affair, they are skilled at making sure that social events are unlikely to be sullied by a scene.

● *John Morgan is Associate Editor of GQ.*



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

BASHA
a. A tribal ruler
b. A Phoenician letter
c. A thatched hut

BOSKER
a. A beggar
b. Excellent
c. The goalkeeper at lacrosse

FLUBDUB
a. Bombast
b. Pseudo butter
c. A cheat

GIGERIUM
a. A gizzard
b. An elephants' cemetery
c. An Alpine plant

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

When Richard Feynman was a youngster, his mother asked the future Nobel Prize winner the same question every evening at the dinner table. "What did you ask at school today?" — *Thinking for a Change, Michael Gelb.*

Question 1
Match the following: Wellington, Cardigan, Caesar, Kutuzov, Marlborough, Borodino, Blenheim, Waterloo, Balaklava, Alesia.

Question 2
In a battle at night a strategically important bridge will be blown up in 40 minutes. Four soldiers must cross to the other side but only two can travel at any given moment and there is only one lamp. Soldier A takes one minute to cross, soldier B five minutes, soldier C 15 minutes and soldier D 20. What is the optimum sequence for crossing the bridge?

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

Thanks to Pete Sampras, there was a reasonable field at Leeds last Sunday for the Regional Final. In my absence, John Grimshaw was faced with a crucial judgment, since a sizeable minority of contestants answered Suspended cast (5) with *SWUNG* rather than the intended SLUNG. Ultimately, he allowed this alternative the benefit of the doubt, and I agree with this decision.

At the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, contestants compete at several levels depending on their level of expertise as measured by past performance. The overall winner is decided by a play-off among the top three, in which they solve the puzzles on large grids in view of the audience. This year they wore headsets to block out sound, and a broadcaster from National Public Radio provided a hilarious running commentary.

For those who are interested, the puzzles from the ACPT 1990-1997 have been published in *Will Shortz's Tournament Crosswords* (Times Books, New York), in which there is a picture of myself, since in 1996 I had the honour of presenting the prizes. These are awarded in more than 20 categories (I was pipped for the non-US prize by a Canadian, who had an advantage, I felt, in knowledge of American culture). Previous presenters include Will Weng (crossword editor of *The New York Times*, 1969-77) and Janet Wynne Vaast (daughter of Arthur Wynne, the inventor of the crossword).

In my speech, I referred to the relative difficulty of the *Times*-style puzzle the contestants had attempted on the Friday evening, and quoted the poem (by Roger McGough, I believe) that goes: Got up/ Shaved/ Did *The Times* crossword/ Shaved again.

Another innovation at the ACPT this year was that about 30 solvers competed simultaneously online — we should consider this possibility for our Championship next year.

● *The writer is Crossword Editor of* The Times

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what was said by Derek Draper, former Labour aide.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.
Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 15.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Maurice Taylor of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I will be here until we win. I will be here for the rest of my life if necessary." — *Orangeman digs in at Drumcree*

"Born to walk the Garvaghy Road — no surrender." — *Slogan on Irish baby's bib*

"Roger is a man of complete integrity but excessive goodwill." — *A minister on Blair's policy adviser Roger Liddle implicated in controversy about improper lobbying*

"I can have tea with Geoffrey Robinson, I can get in to Ed Balls." — *Disgraced lobbyist Derek Draper boasts of his influence with the Paymaster General and the Chancellor's economic adviser*

"Even with my sinuses I can smell the stench coming out of these allegations." — *William Hague on the lobbying controversy*

"Turn it down, I can't even hear myself think." — *Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher is distressed by loud music in a nearby car*

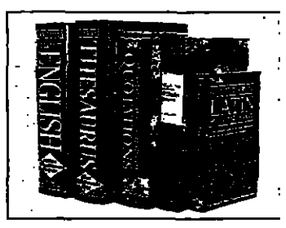
"There is no connection between naturism and sex." — *James Scarlett, whose holiday videos of naked people were ruled not obscene*

"This is a betrayal of the British toilet." — *Michael Fabricant MP criticises the "harmonised" Euro-loo standard*

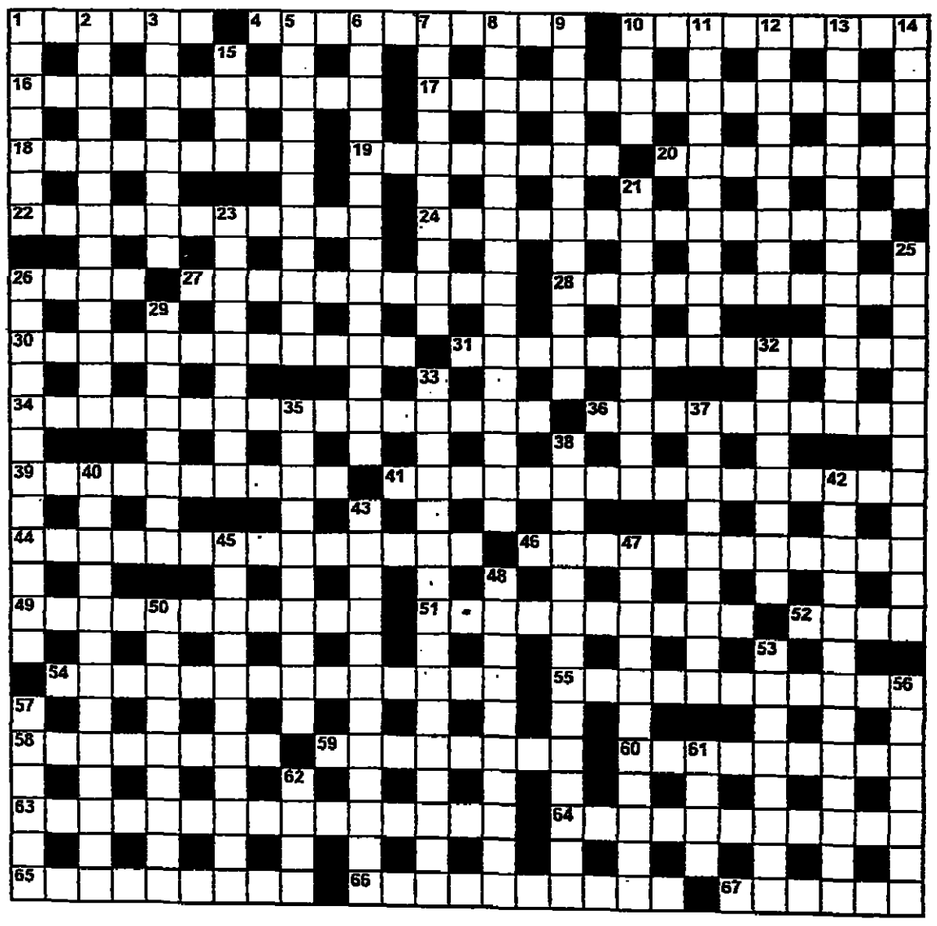
"The possibility of armed conflict and the use of automatic weapons and explosives." — *National Criminal Intelligence Service warns police forces what to expect from feuds between rival motorcycle gangs this summer*

"The Queen is entitled to use the gifts that God has given her to mimic anyone she pleases." — *Ian Paisley on hearing that the Queen does a wickedly funny impersonation of him*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 175



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 175, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, July 23. The name of the winner will be published on July 25.



ACROSS
1 Sulphur affected island's seafood (6)
4 Miller's art, coming and going in fashion (5,5)
10 Snow falling in a low curtain around hill top (9)
16 A very quiet old city resident keeping to the point (11)
17 Discussions putting value on royal family's stately home (10,5)
18 Nurse takes in a charge for religious leader (9)
19 Snake concealed in broken piano (8)
20 Relative goes outside hot, bothered seeing stripper do this (8)
22 Excavator quickly moves humble dwelling (5,6)
24 Bringing back again opening notes in diminution (14)
26 Censor of scatology (4)
27 Taking role of pretender in Henry IV Pt.1? (4-6)
28 Machine turning out a green twine (5,6)
30 Wild US fury cut UAR having benefit from property (12)
31 How noise might rise to unheard-of levels (14)
34 Short sound, from half a minute to a minute (6-6,4)
36 Anger at a northern church moderation (10)
39 Tree played tragically time and time again (10)
41 Laws covering the finish of all roads? (5,5,2,4)
44 Where Arabs might draw a gun? (5,9)
46 What's not *all* sweetness and light? (5,7)
49 One's intended to stand and reflect (6,5)
51 Among whoppers, I'm monstrous fruit (10)
52 Police team's not succeeded in court (4)
54 English can spark answer to help over, for instance, old classical inscription (2,2,7,3)
55 Where the collection box is often falling into disuse (2,3,3,3)
58 Pornographic to show backside — it's not often seen (4,4)
59 Great joke — one penned by Scotsman (8)
60 Formidable woman running Marathon, perhaps, with abandon? (9)
63 NB — I'm dealing with certainties! (7,8)
64 Space to let, perhaps, which hotel can take up (4,7)
65 South Carolina's official register was sent back in cutter (6,3)
66 Region, as clued cryptically (6,4)
67 Writer of English letters (6)

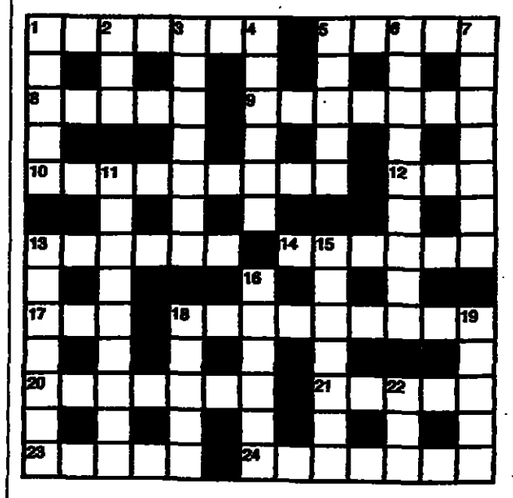
DOWN
1 Medicine men pretend to have answer (7)
2 Such planetaria go wrong, not showing Southern star (5,8)
3 Paragraph put on note for apologetic statement (6,2)
5 Wife on bonnet: do you keep anything very similar? (4,4,3)
6 Cringe, and rely on it exploding? (14)
7 Company overthrown by king in strange Homeric burlesque (4-6)
8 She's going outside with confusing and silly person in childish attire (9-7)
9 Where you won't get taken in as well (8,4)
10 Bright star seen over river (4)
11 Particle in nature — not strange (11)
12 Old king in Cornish town, having answer for naught (9)
13 Type of stock to woo upper-class — I'll appear in favour (5,8)
14 City College (6)
15 Salmon leap under construction (4)
21 Mollusc giving reason for pain in the mouth (5,5)
23 Hurry to cradle distressed calf of black and white breed (4-5)
25 Title of Chapter No.1 (4,8)
26 Bill in America pursuing token restraint in opposition (12)
29 In moving, unearthed unfinished part of paint (8)
32 Happy with treatment as it is on the National Health? (8)
33 European articles on power begrudged not having enough MEPs? (16)
35 What to do with 24 hours — down tools? (4,2,1,3)
37 "Walked by, strained" is perceived as this (4,5)
38 Cold nose heard running near hot food (6,3,5)
40 One concept of mathematics — ideal thing to put you to sleep? (7,6)
42 Introduction given to fey relations (4,4,1,4)
43 Following of ancient tradition is all as MCC is in disarray (12)
45 A clue for this is dead hard? (5,6)
47 Get the wind up and end up fighting (4,2,5)
48 Therefore store ordered 50 for a source of vitamin D_2 (10)
50 It's peculiar to name working animal "Don" (9)
53 A witch might use this headdress soaring north of Paris (8)
56 Classical character of dissertations around university (7)
57 Means of calculating part of capital (6)
61 Time to request work (4)
62 Compete with women's opinion (4)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1455

ACROSS
1 Knocks off (eg pedestal) (7)
5 Royal golfcourse near Ayr (5)
8 (Mountain) crest (5)
9 Member of periodic table (7)
10 A game; horse-trials venue (9)
12 Debtor's note (1,1,1)
13 Sang under breath: (place) was busy (6)
14 Outskirts: short hair over brow (6)
17 Boy child (5)
18 Cleanshaven (9)
20 Volcanic (rock) (7)
21 Viper (5)
23 Horse (poet) (5)
24 A fertiliser; sounds like off-peak charge (7)

DOWN
1 Pulsate (5)
2 Doctorate (abbr.) (2,1)
3 Sheltered half (of ship) (3,4)
4 Half rains, half snows (6)
5 Coordinate (eg book with TV series) (3,2)
6 Compliance (9)
7 Jap. carved ivory (7)
11 Exercise of ascendancy (9)
13 Important person's jocular title (3,4)
15 Wholly change (document) (7)
16 Clergyman; his nose, on fowl (6)
18 Fair-haired (man) (5)
19 Loose-stone slope (5)
22 Genetic-info molecule (abbr.) (1,1,1)

SOLUTION TO NO 1454
ACROSS: 8 Hear out 9 Henge 10 Vermilion 11 Fat 12 Locus 14 Tremble 15 Bonkers 17 Saxon 19 Fit 20 Generator 22 Liner 23 Recluse
DOWN: 1 Shovel 2 Lair 3 Folies-Bergère 4 Strict 5 Thunderstruck 6 Snuffbox 7 Settle 13 Constant 15 Baffle 16 Sentry 18 Nerves 21 Tout

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